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How long can you safely keep cosmetics? Will you ever need those binders filled with photo negatives? Do pillows have expiration dates? Our guidelines at BHG.com/StoreNoMore tell you when to say good-bye to these items and many others.



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Boost your organizational efforts by upcycling items you already own. Visit BHG.com/OrganizationHacks to learn how to turn pants hangers into crafts storage, convert an office file folder into a linen organizer, fasten magnets on cosmetics containers to create a makeup station, and more quick solutions.

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BUSTED!

No wonder we struggled to find props while preparing for photo shoots! Turn to [page 8](#) to see how we dealt with our overflowing storage space.

Here's our dirty little secret: We aren't perfect!

Although we produce a magazine packed with organizing insights, Team *Storage* sometimes falls short of its ideals. After years of dumping supplies in a shared 12×16-foot storage space, we couldn't stand the chaos any longer. Time to take a dose of our own medicine!

Utilizing the six-step SIMPLE method advocated by frequent contributor and professional organizer Kathy Jenkins, we tackled our clutter item by item, zone by zone. Six months in, we can still see the floor. So we're counting this one as a win!

Beyond truth-telling, this issue explores ways to tap into your home's storage potential. Discover ways to convert an attic into a home office ("Home Work," [page 20](#)) or a personal retreat ("The Ultimate Master Suite," [page 76](#)). A smart basement upgrade ("Mapped Out," [page 10](#)) and an entry porch overhaul ("The Ultimate Utility Room," [page 98](#)) both result in loads of extra function without enlarging either room's footprint a single inch. We even show you how to optimize the few inches beneath a bed ("Under the Covers," [page 38](#)). So prepare to start packing it in like a pro!

Brian

Brian Kramer
Editor, *Storage*

BEFORE The entrance to our office storage area was a drop zone—in the worst sense of the phrase! Unsorted boxes and containers sat on the floor, blocking drawers and walkways.

AFTER

We designated specific spots for each category of item we needed to store. As a result, everything has a home on a shelf or in a drawer—and not on the floor.



AFTER

A detailed map posted just inside the entrance to the storage space tells where everything belongs. Try using maps to summarize complex spaces (a pantry or an entry closet) or areas that are difficult to see in full (the interior of a deep drawer or packed trunk).



SEE VIDEO!

Watch all six steps of the SIMPLE method in action. Visit BHG.com/OrganizeDrawer and see how to banish clutter once and for all.

BEFORE Unsorted paper and binders stood on top of tall filing cabinets, while mismatched items filled open compartments. Visitors had no idea what was inside each big file drawer.

AFTER

Plastic shoeboxes hold smaller papers, sorted by style and type. Simple adhesive labels declare what belongs in each compartment and the contents of each drawer.



AFTER

Dedicated shelves hold specific items, and clear plastic containers (in several sizes) corral similar small items. Labels on shelf fronts reinforce the organizing plan.

BEFORE

Although kinda-sorta organized by type, small items crowded open shelves, and opaque containers hid contents.



AFTER

Frequently used supplies are now located just inside the entrance to the storage space, so starting a project is a grab-and-go endeavor. Matching clear plastic shoeboxes stack and show off contents. Papers and binders occupy the top shelf where it's OK for them to look a bit unruly. A laundry hamper holds tall rolls of paper and gift wrap.



TRICKS FROM THE TRENCHES

Here are three big takeaways *Team Storage* learned while trying to get its act together:



Sort with signs. Though making handwritten cards initially seemed silly, doing so helped focus the sorting process. Bonus: Everyone knew the purpose of every pile.



Keep it simple. We opted for fast, functional printed vinyl labels and basic containers in several sizes, such as zippered bags and clear plastic shoeboxes.



Take it a step further. After gathering all our pens and pencils into a single caddy, we further sorted by the types and styles that matter to us. Elastic hair ties ensure yellow No. 2 pencils don't mix with natural wood.

RESOURCES BEGIN ON PAGE 117.

Photographers Marty Baldwin and Jay Wilde

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**Better
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mapped out

With a wealth of storage and abundant space for fun, this playroom is set to grow alongside the family it houses.

Writer **Chelsea Evers** Photographer **John Granen** Producer **Linda Humphrey**



Three young boys and all the books, toys, and games that come with them can add up to a lot of stuff. This was the challenge facing Kyle Meidell and Nicole Bavo, who wanted their new house to have plenty of space for both having good times and stashing stuff. So when they hired Mike Rausch and Devin Johnson of Johnson Squared, they prioritized a new basement playroom.

Flexibility was the overarching theme. “The family knew they were going to need a space that could adapt over the years—kids go through different types of toys and games as they get older,” Rausch says. “And we wanted to provide storage that could accommodate all those changes.”

To make it happen, Johnson Squared created a cozy living space flanked by

an open area currently occupied by a freestanding train table. Built-in shelving keeps books and toys tidy, while an adjacent wall of cabinets disguised by a world map hides games and supplies. “The family travels a lot,” Rausch says, “So the treatment is a fun way to document their adventures over the years.”

RESOURCES BEGIN ON PAGE 117.

1. Cut and glued to cabinets piece by piece, this map mural lets the family reminisce on their travels. **2.** Board games, movies, and puzzles sit at the ready just behind closed doors. **3.** A utensil caddy, dishes, and straws stow neatly inside a low drawer, eliminating trips to the kitchen upstairs when snack time rolls around. **4.** Open shelving offers compartments for books, collections, and a few favorite toys. **5.** A train table surrounded by comfy poufs serves as the main attraction for the family's young sons. When the boys grow older, the family plans to replace it with a pool table. Concrete floors are a low-maintenance, easy-to-clean solution to kids' messes.



hangin' tough

Hands down (pun intended) hooks are one of the most cost-effective storage optimizers available. Here's how to pick hardware that suits your needs.

Writer Emily Elveru Photographer Marty Baldwin



1 TEMPORARY ADHESIVE HOOKS remove easily, without leaving marks. **GOOD FOR:** Displaying holiday decor or when living in a rental. Command Clear Hook (2 pack), Medium, \$4; command.com

2 DROP-DOWN VALETS fold up when not in use. **GOOD FOR:** Maximizing wall space in small baths or closets. Björnnum Folding Hook, \$10 for 3; ikea.com

3 SMALL HOOK STRIPS keep items from being misplaced. **GOOD FOR:** Dangling key rings or necklaces. Threshold Key Tidy Rail with Four Hooks (painted), \$7; target.com

4 MULTIARM HOOKS combine three swinging hooks into one unit. **GOOD FOR:** Sharing one hook with multiple people or assembling outfits. Kes Swing Arm Triple Hook (similar), \$10; amazon.com

5 SUCTION HOOKS reposition in seconds. **GOOD FOR:** Holding lightweight items on smooth, clean surfaces in baths or kitchens. InterDesign Powerlock Suction, \$2 for 2; menards.com

6 OVER-DOOR HOOKS provide instant heavy-duty hanging. **GOOD FOR:** Drying towels or adding an extra hook while traveling. Satin Nickel Single Cabinet Door Hook, \$5; menards.com

7 CUP HOOKS screw into any solid material. **GOOD FOR:** Optimizing space behind or inside a cupboard door. 1 1/4-inch Blue Hawk Cup Hooks, \$1 for 2; lowes.com

8 MULTHOOK STRIPS offer many hooks on a single wood or metal base for faster installation. **GOOD FOR:** Storing bulky towels, jackets, or heavy bags behind a door. Yorkshire Brushed Nickel Robe Hook, \$12; moen.com



9 PEG STRIPS provide traditional-style grab-and-go storage. **GOOD FOR:** Heavy coats or towels. (Light items will slip off.) 7-Peg Wood Rack (painted), \$16; containerstore.com

10 NOVELTY HOOKS add personality and style to a wall or cabinet. **GOOD FOR:** Displaying accessories. Eight-Arms Hook (similar), \$48; anthropologie.com

11 HIDDEN MOUNTING HOOKS provide clean, streamlined storage. **GOOD FOR:** Hanging towels or robes on door backs or cabinet sides. Designer's Image Double Robe Hook, \$5; menards.com

12 TRIPLE HOOKS provide three sturdy prongs. **GOOD FOR:** Squeezing a few strong hooks into one spot. P25026 Double Utility Coat Hook, \$6; hickoryhardware.com

13 DOUBLE SPLIT HOOKS keep items from overlapping. **GOOD FOR:** Separating a robe and pajamas; also cradling scissors, kitchen utensils, or hairbrushes. Stanley Double Clothes Hook, \$3; lowes.com

14 SINGLE HOOKS let you space hangers as close or far apart as you want. **GOOD FOR:** Customizing the function of furniture, trim, or cabinets. Gatehouse Robe Hook, \$1.50; lowes.com

15 DOUBLE STACKED HOOKS provide two hooks in the space of one. **GOOD FOR:** Layering a scarf, hat, and coat in a single spot. Gatehouse Garment Hook, \$4; lowes.com



BUY IT!

The INSPIRA STUDIO Thread Cabinet puts up to 300 spools at your fingertips with tilting, adjustable thread pins on five pullout racks. myinspirastudio.com

BUY IT!

The Mat & Hoop Cabinet stacks with four other modular INSPIRA STUDIO storage units to create the look and function of custom crafts room built-ins. myinspirastudio.com



Kathy Jenkins is a Certified Professional Organizer, Certified Family Manager Coach, and founder of Come To Order.

create without clutter

Ready, set, make it your own! A crafts or hobby space that melds inspiration and organization will energize you to do your best work.

Writer **Brian Kramer** Producer **Christy Brokens** Photographer **Jacob Fox**

Whether you're passionate about sewing, scrapbooking, or sculpting, creativity is often messy. The fabric bundles, paper piles, and assorted bric-a-brac aren't everyday clutter—they're potential works of art. At least that's what you've been telling yourself and your family for years.

In order to keep your supplies, tools, and in-progress projects from taking over your home, set boundaries and decide how much space you're willing to give to a craft or hobby. "Don't let your supplies drive your decision," professional organizer Kathy Jenkins says. "Your space must come first." Although this initial decision can be tough, shared spaces (a dining area that moonlights as a sewing room) or portable solutions (wheeled caddies, project bags) can let you flex some creative muscles even if your home doesn't accommodate a dedicated room.

GET IT TOGETHER

After defining your creative space, gather your tools, materials, and references together. If you stash creative gear in multiple spots, you likely don't know your true storage needs. Sort like items into piles, but don't place them in cabinets, closets, or containers yet. "Successfully storing and organizing crafts supplies is about ongoing inventory control," Jenkins says. Start the editing process by combining partial quantities and eliminating duplicates. Test all tools and supplies, discarding anything that doesn't work perfectly.

Determining whether an item—or indeed, an entire craft—is out-of-date can be particularly challenging. Jenkins reminds clients that "Crafts change over time, and so do you." Maybe you were into metallic printed fabric, but you finished those projects years ago. Do you really want to dedicate space to a look that's over for you?

Because people often struggle to make objective decisions about things they're passionate about, a paid professional or a trusted friend can push you to get realistic. "You can easily convince yourself you *might* need something someday," Jenkins says. Family and other crafters, however, aren't always the best helpers. Family comments can easily feel judgmental, and friends, particularly those who share your hobby, are likely to add your castoffs to their own already overflowing supplies.

Reference materials are one area where Jenkins recommends ruthlessness. Patterns, instructions, and other inspiration from the 1970s, '80s, and even the '90s are often dated to the point of being unusable. Even if you like vintage looks, you're unlikely to actually work from vintage directions. "Bottom line: Vintage reference materials must be timeless to merit storing," Jenkins says. Ask yourself if you can get similar (and perhaps better) information and inspiration somewhere else that requires no storage space, such as a website, a library, or a museum.

GIVE IT AWAY

Your old supplies can benefit someone else when you give them away. "Remind yourself that you're passing on your passion," Jenkins says. "You're encouraging someone else's expression and discovery." It's also pretty cool that your supplies can become something totally different from what you imagined in another person's hands.

Elementary schools will take just about any art supply you're willing to part with, and middle and high school students are in constant need of supplies as well. Don't overlook community resource centers, including those that cater to after-school care

and individuals with special needs. Preschools and day care centers are generally a bit more selective about donations, but adult day cares and nursing homes are often very open, even accepting old magazines and books. Always call first and explain specifically what you want to give them.

PUT IT AWAY

Most creative people are also visual learners, so play to your strengths while setting up your organized crafts or hobby space. “You will feel more creative and energized when your supplies are displayed,” Jenkins says. “If you put it away in a cabinet or drawer, you might as well not have it.”

Take the time to display your supplies and tools attractively, keeping like with like. Hang items on walls using hooks and other holders. Store clustered supplies in clear containers, and position everything on open shelving. Reserve tabletops, cubbies, and shelves for items you frequently use and interact with, such as markers, fabric, and paper.

You can safely put away things that you will be purposeful in finding. When you need a cutting mat, for instance, you will remember that you have one and know where to find it. By contrast, you probably won’t remember all the acrylic paint colors you have. Jenkins recommends displaying your major or most frequently used colors, and then creating a list or sample palette of all the colors you currently have in stock.

KEEP IT TIDY

Quick cleanup is critical if you want to keep creative clutter to a minimum. “You will not put things back into deep storage mid-project,” Jenkins says. “So do everything you can to limit packing and unpacking.”

Designate clear containers for each active project. Look for containers with handles (and perhaps wheels) so you can move them around easily. Plastic zipper bags or cardboard pizza boxes are inexpensive alternatives to off-the-rack options, but if a project is taking years to complete or you’re working with sensitive materials, invest in acid-free containers. Whatever your container choice, write the project name, start date, and target deadline with marker on a label or the container itself. That way, you create a project log and a written goal in a few seconds.

RESOURCES BEGIN ON PAGE 117.

Spools need to spin freely to release their contents. Use spindles or individual compartments to keep twine, string, and thread tangle-free. Heavier materials like yarn and cord can be rolled or bundled, particularly if you’re dispensing more slowly.



TOP: Divide an office supply tray with segments of plastic canvas cut to size and notched with scissors. Pair spools and bobbins in each compartment. **ABOVE:** Stand twine and string upright in a plastic basket and dispense by pulling out ends.

TAPE

You can easily overbuy decorative tapes if you store them in a closed box or canister. Know what you have in your personal stash—and put it to use—by displaying your entire collection in a repurposed or purchased dispenser.



BUY IT!

Super-cute dispensers delight while decluttering. Each holds up to 8 rolls. Elephant Multiroll Tape Dispenser, \$27; cutetape.com. Scotch Expressions Multiroll Tape Dispenser, \$11; scotchbrand.com



TOP: Thread up to a dozen rolls of washi tape on a wood embroidery hoop and dangle from a wall hook. **ABOVE:** Insert dowels through holes in a metal basket to serve as spindles for tapes. Secure the entire system with rubber bands.

ABOVE: Cover a cardboard aluminum foil container with adhesive paper and fill with tape rolls. The serrated edge is ideal for tearing off segments.

Keep only papers that are wrinkle-free, squared-off, and larger than 8 inches square. As you shop for organizers, remember that almost all scrapbook papers are 12×12 inches; rolled papers are typically 21, 24, or 30 inches tall.

BELOW: Sort scrapbook papers by type, color, pattern, and any other criteria meaningful to you, then place in a clear plastic 2.5-gallon bag. Organize bags by clipping them together with wooden trouser hangers and hanging from a closet rod.



Instead of trying to make paper organizers from an office supply store work, invest in proper-size solutions. Double Latched Portable Project Case, \$9 each; shopiriusa.com. Better Storage Design Wire Paper Rack, \$20; walmart.com

BUY IT!



PAINT

Keep only fresh paints. A year-old quarter tube of paint is probably drier than ideal, and separated paints are difficult to fully remix; dispose of old paints properly. Paints stored at a consistent room temperature stay mixed and usable longer.



TOP: Sort paints by type and color family in a clear vinyl shoe organizer. **ABOVE:** Construct mini display shelves for 2-ounce acrylic paint tubes by combining a ½-inch-thick molding strip and a thin metal towel rod.

FABRIC

Get tough about keeping remnants! Yes, they can be used again—but probably not by you. You need to see fabric in order to use it, so don't pile fabric in filing cabinets or drawers. Fabrics need to breathe, so opt for wire shelves whenever possible.



TOP: Sort and display fabrics in clear acrylic wall pockets. Position favorite remnants so you can see all your options. **ABOVE:** Drape fabrics for a single project over a five-arm trouser hanger. Store the hanger in a closet or hang on the wall.

homework

Rather than face a daily commute, one entrepreneurial mom chose a remodel and created a dream office at home.

Writer **Pamela Porter** Photographer **Werner Straube** Producer **Hilary Rose**

Labeled magazine files keep catalogs and periodicals in check.



ABOVE: Andrea Goldman's A-frame-style office space features a neutral color palette, hardworking built-ins, and a long dining table turned desk. A versatile bench provides seating in the conversation area and for clients around the desk. Skylights drench the room in natural light, essential for her interior design work.

To find the perfect office in suburban Chicago's North Shore, interior designer Andrea Goldman looked out her bedroom window. Where many would have seen a sharply pitched garage roof, Andrea saw potential. She and her husband, David, transformed the angular area above their garage into a dream work space.

Here's how a busy mom keeps it all under control, in her own words.

What's the biggest advantage of working from home? The flexibility is priceless. I can work odd hours, popping in and out of my office as needed but still be accessible to family.

What storage solutions do you consider indispensable to the space?

The room wouldn't function smoothly without the built-ins. The deep drawers and cabinets hold my wallpaper, wood, tile, and stone samples, and the shelves house baskets for fabric swatches. And I have a whole drawer that's nothing but paint chips!

My camera is also critical to staying organized. I pull out numerous materials at a time to come up with just the right combination. I snap a photo to document everything, and then put it all away.



ABOVE: Andrea loves baskets for their warm texture and because they're inexpensive. She uses them to sort fabric swatches by color and pattern. Soapstone countertops contrast with the mostly white room and continue her earthy palette.

LEFT: Andrea enjoys the view from her light-filled, upper-level office.

FEARLESS FILING!
Visit BHG.com/File to learn our no-fail plan to quickly store and retrieve all your papers.



Choose bins and boxes in dark colors to hide fingerprints.

How did you get everything to fit so perfectly? I knew what I needed to organize first, then I found bins, boxes, baskets, and containers to meet my needs. Finally I had the shelving and cabinets built to fit the containers.

How do you keep electrical cords under control? Most people forget about having an electrical plan to provide power where you need it. If your printer is inside a cabinet, run power in there. To streamline cords, we installed outlets exactly where I needed them, including right into the floor under my desk.



ABOVE: Deep drawers and open shelving contain essentials and a slew of graphite-color storage boxes featuring pulls with integrated write-on labels. **LEFT:** A tall basket corrals rolled up floor plans too large to fit in drawers. **OPPOSITE TOP:** Decorative bowls are used in lieu of standard desk containers to hold small office supplies. **OPPOSITE BOTTOM:** Living a few steps away from work gives Andrea the best of both worlds. She has an open-door policy for her kids, who regularly invade the irresistible space to hang out or do homework.

What other tips do you have for organizing a home office? I'm a residential designer, so even though it's a work space, I'd suggest to think less "office" and more "decorative" instead. Forget the industrial metal file cabinet and standard desktop kits. Use containers and accessories with a homey vibe to gather paperwork and supplies. It inspires me to be surrounded by beautiful things, and you can find beautiful things that function well, too.

RESOURCES BEGIN ON PAGE 117.



SPACE-SAVING TIP

Maximize storage within an angled space by stacking books horizontally and augmenting with trays, boxes, and decorative items. The resulting pyramid-shape piles are easy to shift right or left to follow the angle of the bookcase or room.



SUPER SUITE

A savvy couple share their favorite add-ons to take a sleep space from dreamy to dynamic.

Writer Mara Boo Photographer David Tsay Producer Paige Porter Fischer Stylists Eddie Ross & Jessica Thomas



Why settle for a traditional bedside table when a chest with drawers offers hidden storage?



3



Charming flea market finds, such as this vintage egg cup, provide style-upping means of corralling small essentials such as desk supplies or jewelry.

4



1 Bedside

bravado A three-drawer chest is a smart substitute for a nightstand. Electronics in the process of being charged reside in its top drawer; out-of-season clothing is folded in the lower two.

2 Micromanager

Homeowner Merrill Gillespie puts the smallest slivers of space to use, as seen in this hallway-turned-office. The slender Parsons table features a pair of drawers ideal for stationery supplies. Merrill found the space-saving chair on the curb and reupholstered it in kinky fabric.

3 Framed finesse

Architectural features, such as window ledges and niches, *left*, are natural spots for calendars, corkboards, clocks, and other organizing accessories.

4 Sorted affair

A punchy sorter tidies papers, pens, clips, scissors, and more, each in its own cubby.

Merrill and Peter Gillespie—busy parents to three kids under the age of four—understand the need for a restful night's sleep. They also understand the importance of storage space, and plenty of it. "With five bodies living in a not-so-big house," Merrill says, "we really had to get creative so clutter and chaos wouldn't take over our lives." That meant casting a critical eye on

their master suite and making it function as more than a space to get ready in the morning and rest in the evening. Packed with clever spots to stash everything from off-season clothing to a menagerie of stuffed animals, the couple's remodeled bedroom is as good-looking as it is hardworking. "I may have small kids," Merrill says, "but I still like things to look stylish!"





Opaque glass panels disguise a stacking washer and dryer. The easy-to-slide doors make quick work of hiding in-progress laundry.

“I like to be able to find things easily, because with three little ones there’s no time to search for what I need.”

—Merrill Gillespie, homeowner

5 Linger & launder

A small sitting area provides more than just a spot for Mom and Dad to relax. Closets along this wall conceal laundry appliances, a utility sink, and even a water heater.

6 Hanging helper

A lightweight rack rolls out of a closet and into service on laundry day.

7 Cubby control

A ready-to-assemble bookcase offers eight niches, each outfitted with baskets, bins, or neatly piled books.

8 Top totes

Handled seagrass and plastic wire baskets gather toys and carry laundry between rooms.

9 Leg up A plush ottoman features a lift-up top for stowing extra pillows and blankets.

10 Snappy dresser

Built-in drawers, shelves, and hanging rods systematize Merrill and Peter’s clothing closet.

11 Footwear focus

Shoes reside in lidded plastic boxes for dust-free visibility and quick decision making.

7

10

11

“Built-ins may seem pricey, but they’re actually a pretty inexpensive way to gain extra storage.”

—Merrill Gillespie, homeowner



12 Show off

Built-in shelves climb the beaded-board wall in the couple's remodeled master bathroom, contributing style and storage in one nostalgic swoop.

13 Grab 'n' go

A mix of boxes, bags, and trays group toiletries, cosmetics, and jewelry.

14 Double vision

A wall-mount mirror is a secondary grooming spot when two share the bath.

15 Bling thing

Necklaces are suspended from the sconces, showcasing Merrill's relaxed, practical style.

16 Hang on A pair of hooks lets two linens dry more quickly than a crowded towel bar.

RESOURCES

BEGIN ON PAGE 117.



15

16



Favorite jewelry items nestle in a zippered fabric cosmetic bag. The entire kit stashes inside a drawer for quick cleanup.



BEFORE: This pantry with adjustable wire shelves and bifold doors had no rhyme or reason to its arrangement.

AFTER: Our makeover repositions shelves, repackages foods into airtight containers, and arranges everything according to how often it's used.



POWER- PACKED PANTRY

Say good-bye to jumbles of cereal boxes and towers of canned goods. Conquer your culinary clutter with our five-step plan to restore your kitchen's order.

Writer **Sarah Wolf** Photographer **Adam Albright** Producer **Meredith Ladik**

STEP ONE

empty it

FOR A FRESH START, PULL OUT EVERYTHING—EVEN THE SHELVES AND BRACKETS.

1 ASK FOR HELP This is the one part of a pantry purge where kids can pitch in. Get them to move everything (and we do mean *everything*) from the pantry onto a nearby section of countertop or a table.

2 CLEAN UP The last time you wiped down your pantry shelves was probably when you moved in, so now is a good time to give the shelves, walls, and floor a once-over to remove dust, cobwebs, and wayward Cheerios. And if you've been meaning to pretty up the pantry, roll on a fresh coat of paint and apply liner paper to the shelves.

3 FIND FOOD ELSEWHERE Walk through your home and examine all the other places you currently store food, especially items you buy in bulk or use for entertaining. Open up all kitchen and laundry cabinets; check the garage and basement. Consider bringing more of your household's foods into the pantry.

STEP TWO

sort it out

PITCH EXPIRED, STALE, AND UNAPPETIZING ITEMS, THEN GROUP WHAT'S LEFT INTO CATEGORIES THAT MAKE SENSE FOR YOUR FAMILY.

1 TRASH IT If packaging is open and unsealed, you should probably toss it. Crackers, cereals, cookies, and other baked goods simply don't stay fresh for more than a few days unless they're sealed tightly. The same goes for anything beyond its expiration date. Throw or give away items you don't like or won't use. (This is your chance to get rid of the gluten-free pasta you hated or that jar of too-hot salsa.)

2 SORT WHAT'S LEFT The categories you use while sorting can be anything, as long as they're meaningful to your family. Perhaps gathering all breakfast foods into one pile is helpful so that the kids can retrieve cereal, oats, and granola bars with ease. Maybe snacks are separated into "sweet" and "salty" piles, or all sandwich-making supplies stay together. As you're sorting, your categories will become clear, and whoever is the main cook (you, probably, if you're reading this) has full decision-making power over how items are grouped and where they go.

3 WRITE IT DOWN While sorting, take the time to write down the categories on index cards or sticky notes. This may seem like overkill, but writing down your categories keeps you on task. You can always change the categories if you need to, but this way there's a record of what you're thinking as you're sorting.

4 STAY OUT OF THE PANTRY Resist the urge to start replacing pantry shelves and grouping items within the confines of your pantry during this stage. You'll get to that in Step Three. For now, just focus on sorting and shuffling.

5 ARRANGE BY DATE Prioritize multiples of any item (canned soups or veggies, sauces, boxed cereals, dry pastas, and so on) by sorting one step further based on use-by date. Put oldest items in the front or on top of any pile. Signal which items family members should consume first by circling use-by dates or writing a note in permanent marker directly on the container.

**STEP
THREE**

plan, then purchase

THE SPACING OF THE SHELVES IS VITAL TO A PANTRY'S FUNCTION. TAKE TWO MINUTES TO MEASURE YOUR PANTRY AND SKETCH IT ON PAPER, THEN STRATEGIZE WHAT GOES WHERE. HERE'S HOW OURS IS CONFIGURED:

1 OUT OF REACH

Reserve the top shelf for seldom-needed party supplies, paper goods, serving pieces, and other lightweight, less-used items.

2 LINE SHELVES

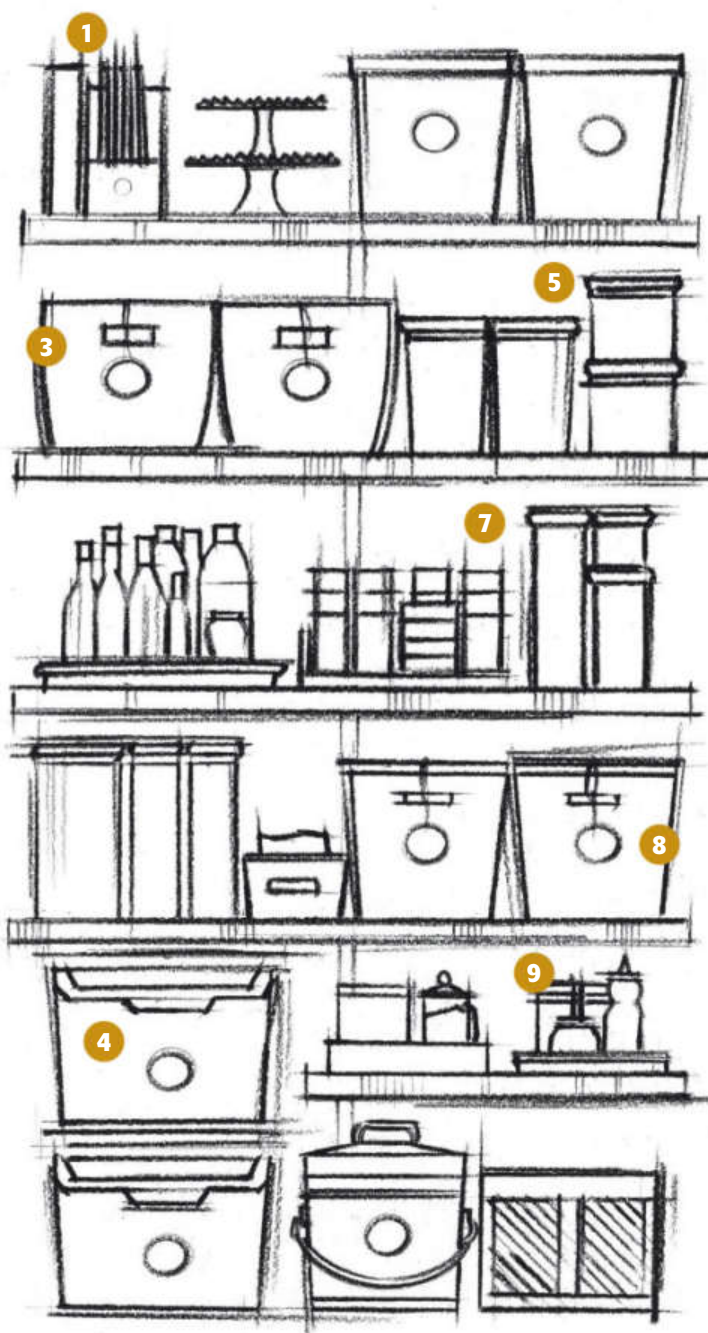
Top shelves with adhesive paper or rubber mats. Thicker plastic sheets keep items from falling through the wire slats.


3 SPACE THE SHELVES

Work from the top down, hanging shelves based on what each will hold. Between 12 and 18 inches is a good rule of thumb (ours are 14).

4 ON THE FLOOR

Put garbage and recycling bins (not bags) on the floor. Pour pet food into a lidded canister (trust us), and corral bottles of soda or water into a foldable crate.


5 SPECIALTY ZONES

Cluster specialty supplies (baking gear in this pantry) just above eye level.

6 MAXIMIZE DOORS

Slim extras—a whiteboard for lists, door-mount bottle opener, and corkboard for coupons—add to a door's duties.


7 ADULT HEIGHT

Reserve this prime midrange spot for meal-making supplies.

8 KID HEIGHT

Designate this area for things children reach for regularly: snacks, breakfast items, and nut butters.

9 SHALLOW HALF

SHELF This bottom shelf is narrow (so nearby recycling bins can stand tall) and shallow (10 inches versus 14)—just deep enough for a lazy Susan.



1



2



3



4

STEP
FOUR

add cool containers

STORE-BOUGHT HELPERS MAKE ORGANIZING AND RETRIEVING PANTRY ITEMS A BREEZE. THEY'RE WORTH EVERY PENNY.

1 TRANSLUCENT BOXES Pile party supplies or paper goods into clear plastic bins. Because you can see what's inside, it's easy to grab what you need.

2 RISERS Available in 12- to 24-inch widths, risers elevate cans without any danger of toppling. They also let you position cans in rows by type.

3 AIRTIGHT CANISTERS Repackage dry goods (flour, sugar, pasta, rice, beans, quinoa, and nuts) into airtight containers to extend freshness. Look for square or rectangular models (round ones waste space) with wide mouths for pouring and scooping. Flat lids enable stacking. Our faves are these Oxo Pop containers with vacuum-seal tops.

4 LAZY SUSANS Available in different diameters, lazy Susans let you stash bottles and jars two or three deep on a shelf—and bring what's in back into easy view with a flick of your wrist. Look for versions with nonslip surfaces, or line them yourself with a piece of rubber or silicone. Stack tall, skinny bottles in the center and surround with shorter items.

STEP
FIVE

label

WELL-IMPLEMENTED LABELS ELEVATE AND MAINTAIN YOUR PANTRY'S ORGANIZATIONAL PLAN.

1 CLEAR CONTAINERS Use a marker and an adhesive label to identify contents, including the date. Affix a clear pocket so you can slip cooking instructions inside.



1

2 SOLID BINS Tags hanging from hooks or a loop can be removed when a basket's contents change. Position them to dangle at eye level so you know what's in a box on a high shelf.



2

GET YOUR OWN FREE LABELS!
Visit BHG.com/FreePantryLabels to download labels just like the ones featured here.





Deep drawers are ideal for pajamas, sportswear, and items that don't always get neatly folded.

prettypractical

Floor-to-ceiling built-ins bring function to this spacious master closet, but the secret to its success lies in simple yet luxurious touches.

Here's how to make getting dressed fuss-free and fabulous!

Writer **Nancy Richman Milligan** Photographer **Richard Leo Johnson** Producer **Sandra L. Mohlmann**



Because she has more shoes than guests, interior designer Elizabeth Barnette opted to give up a second powder room in order to add 5 feet to her master closet. "It's my dressing room," she says. "And I want it to be pretty and have everything I need at my fingertips."

Elizabeth's shoes and purses make a design statement on a wall of open shelving, while deep drawers below corral nightwear and sports clothes. The built-in vanity combines practicality—drawers and shelves for makeup, hair tools, and undergarments—with the elegance of antique accompaniments.

A dramatic built-in, *opposite*, resembles a freestanding hutch and puts shoes and purses on display. Double hanging rods organize clothes in the open, topped by shelves filled with vintage hatboxes for more storage.

Slanted shelves, *left*, hold heels and sandals. Flip-flops are tossed together in a braided basket. Purses are easy to find when artfully positioned on shelves.

RESOURCES BEGIN ON PAGE 117.



An antique French chair, *opposite*, and a gilded mirror add character and beauty to a hardworking vanity where Elizabeth stores everything she needs to do her hair, makeup, and nails. Trays and braided baskets keep supplies handy, while drawers hold lingerie.

A leather-clad jewelry box, *above*, organizes rings and bracelets, simplifying access to finishing touches.

An antique silver sugar bowl and cream pitcher, *above right*, are put to new use holding makeup brushes and lipsticks on Elizabeth's vanity. "If you are going to store something, why not make it pretty?" she says.

Silver serving trays, *right*, picked up at flea markets, are perfect for sorting jewelry and other small items.



GROOMING GRACE

Primp like a pro with interior designer Elizabeth Barnette's recommendations:

- **Go high.** Make full use of your closet's height—from floor to ceiling. Use a stepladder to reach high shelves.
- **Layer the lighting.** Good overall lighting is essential in a closet. Combine recessed cans, chandeliers, and lamps. If you can't see it, you won't wear it.
- **Group by type.** Storing similar items together is more important than grouping by color, particularly when you need to get ready quickly.



PUT FLEA MARKET FINDS TO WORK

Visit BHG.com/ThriftyStorage
for easy ways to convert
vintage favorites into
hardworking organizers.



under the covers

Make smart use of below-the-bed space with these storage solutions for clothing, decorations, toys, and more.

Writer **Laura Kristine Johnson** Photographer **Jacob Fox** Producer **Brian Kramer**

To Protect Seasonal Clothing

- 1.** Slip cedar shoe inserts into flats and loafers to maintain their shapes and absorb odors and moisture. Women's Adjustable Cedar Shoe Tree, \$20 for pair; woodlore.com
- 2.** Repurpose a plastic place mat by cutting it in half lengthwise, rolling the halves, and inserting them into boots to prevent misshapen shafts.
- 3.** Group clothing by type or owner in see-through storage bags with handles for quick transport. Clear Small Chest, \$9 for set of two; containerstore.com
- 4.** Toss a cedar block into each compartment to naturally deter bugs and mildew and impart a fresh scent. Cedar Blocks, \$4 for set of four; containerstore.com





To Organize Gift Wrap 5. Collect tape, ribbon, and gift tags in a divided utensil tray. This one features round-bottom compartments so spools stand upright. Silver 3-Section Mesh Cutlery Tray, \$8; containerstore.com **6.** Organize gift bags in an open shirt-size gift box; store the lid underneath the box so you can easily call it

into gift-giving duty. **7.** Corral small, delicate items like bows, string, and ribbon in pencil cups to prevent them from being jumbled and crushed in the larger container. **8.** Secure and stack gift-wrap rolls with silicone beverage stabilizers meant for the refrigerator. Fridge Monkey, \$7; containerstore.com

To Sort Table Decor 9. Insert a tension rod the length of your storage container to prevent candles, holders, and other round items from rolling. **10.** Stash napkins, napkin rings, and small candles in a fabric-covered accessory tray. The tray's compartments allow you to organize by item type and size. **11.** Keep track of place mat and cloth napkin sets by grouping like items with binder clips.

To Corral Toys 12. Avoid creases in play mats and rugs by rolling them rather than folding. Then tuck into a container. **13.** Sort toys by type into divided caddies with handles to make it easy for kids to nab and replace. Smart Store Handled Tray in Orange and White, \$6 each; containerstore.com **14.** Snap smartphone photos of properly stored items, enlarge and print the images, then adhere them to the insides of containers to help non-readers sort and put away toys.



BE CHOOSY

Underbed containers come in a range of shapes and materials to meet your storage needs.



Woven paper containers (and those made from other natural fibers) are eco-friendly and durable and let contents breathe. Paper Rope Underbed Basket in White, \$37; theorganizingstore.com



Plastic boxes provide an airtight seal, and see-through material lets you easily identify contents. A hinged lid is a handy bonus. Underbed Storage Box with Hinged Lid, \$27; shopiriusa.com



Fabric storage options are lightweight, flexible, and foldable for compact stashing when not in use. Better Homes and Gardens® Under Bed Shoe Organizer, \$13; walmart.com



Wood veneer and decorative-front underbed storage drawers provide a finished look for skirtless beds. MALM Underbed Storage Box in Birch Veneer, \$85 for set of two; ikea.com



Wire crates work well for storing bulky items like toys. Whitmor Rolling Underbed Cart in White, \$30; theorganizingstore.com





No more tippy-toe fancy footwork! Install a rail and rolling ladder near tall shelves and cupboards to safely reach top-tier items. The ladder on this system detaches and hooks onto other rails. For a budget-friendly fix, hang a folding step stool on the wall or on the back of a pantry door.

- 44** the ultimate kitchen
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- 54** solutions: waste & recycling
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kitchen spaces

Your kitchen works hard, serving more than three meals each day. It also offers space to complete tasks, allows family and friends to gather, and provides a laboratory for you to put innovative solutions through hands-on testing.



the ultimate kitchen

Smart zoning, discreet storage, and clever add-ons make a space with peak efficiency.

Like the Trojan horse of organizing, this kitchen packs surprises at every turn. Sneaky storage ideas infiltrate the room, benefiting both culinary and personal gear. The result is an open floor plan with generous rewards in efficiency and comfort.

Planning the right space for every item was the overarching mantra while designing this kitchen. Storage is not about bulky cabinets crowding a big room, but rather smart built-ins spread around the space. Base cabinets along the room's perimeters are fitted with deep drawers and integrated organizers. Floating open shelves that stretch along upper walls capture attention with their decorative beauty and encourage streamlined cooking and living.

Specialty cabinetry is the focus of the functional zones. Custom tower cabinets define the end of the primary cooking area on one end and surround the refrigerator on the other. Bridging the gap between cooking and eating areas, a glass-front hutch breaks up the run of cabinets and holds as

much—and perhaps more—dishware than a standard combo of upper and lower cabinets. A cushioned banquette in the eating area sports a series of drawers to keep entertaining and studying essentials close at hand but out of sight. A built-in bookcase commands attention near the table and holds both hardworking and decorative items.

A vibrant green barn door at one end of the cooking zone leads to a storage-packed butler's pantry. This corridorlike auxiliary space not only houses food and oversize kitchen supplies, but also serves as a mudroom with shoe storage and a fully equipped laundry center. A small peninsula opposite the back door offers a landing place for mail, keys, and electronics.

RESOURCES BEGIN ON PAGE 117.

Writer **Megan Boettcher** Photographer **Greg Scheidemann**

Project Editor **Kit Selzer** Stylist **John Loecke**



THIS PHOTO: Floating shelves almost disappear in front of the white subway tile backsplash, yet they hold a full inventory of the kitchen's everyday dishes. **OPPOSITE:** Innovation goes beyond storage. This kitchen's appliances are connected to the Internet and can be controlled through a tablet or smartphone. A handy wood stand eases screen viewing while reading an online recipe or planning a virtual shopping list.

Open shelves encourage display and keep a kitchen from feeling top-heavy.



Deep drawers, *above*, offer more-accessible storage space than cavernous cabinets. This configuration is especially convenient for individuals with limited mobility—no more hunching over to reach into a low, dark cabinet.

A DIY message board, *opposite, top left*, was created by painting the back of a piece of glass and framing it to match the window trim. Extra molding along the bottom edge of the frame forms a ledge for dry-erase markers.

Office trays, *opposite, top right*, corral countertop clutter. Take time once a week—perhaps the night before cleanup day—to sort through stacks of mail, receipts, and old to-do lists.

A butler's pantry, *opposite, bottom left*, can be a storage workhorse, housing small appliances, oversize platters, and kitchen staples. When entertaining, the deep apron-front sink can corral dirty dishes behind a closed sliding door.

The laundry center, *opposite, bottom right*, has a counter for folding and small open shelves for frequently used supplies. Oversize detergent bottles and other cleaning supplies are out of sight in the cabinets above.



Stock a roll of kraft or wrapping paper in the pantry. With tape, scissors, and ribbon in an adjacent drawer, you're always ready for last-minute gift-giving.





Constructed from four cabinet drawers, the banquette is finished with trim around the bottom and colorful cushions on top.

LIVE SMART WITH TECH
Visit BHG.com/HomeTech to discover top technology products that truly simplify your life.

A custom shelf unit, *above right*, was built by grouping several cabinet boxes. The consistent green finish on both the interior and exterior cunningly disguises the fact that these are just cabinets without doors. After dinner is over, everything needed to pay bills or finish homework is easily accessible in a mix of woven baskets and colorful boxes.

Small electronics, *opposite top*, such as a wireless printer and scanner, are tucked into the banquette drawers and brought out when needed.

Outfitted for the latest technology, *opposite bottom*, this shelving unit has electrical as well as USB outlets for charging a variety of devices. USB outlets are more expensive than traditional outlets, so carefully consider their placement before installing.

Wireless scanners, such as this one from getdoxie.com, allow you to easily scan receipts and other important documents to reduce paper clutter.

in the zone

An open concept kitchen makes room for family fun within a well-planned design.



1 COOK The work triangle—range, refrigerator, and sink—is at the heart of most every kitchen. Surrounded by deep storage drawers, this zone is where the majority of the slicing and dicing happens.

2 HOLD Oversize and seasonal items get stashed in the pantry so they are always available but never in the way.

3 CLEAN A laundry area near the back entrance is convenient for collecting messy items as soon as they enter the home. It's also just steps away from a multitasking cook who's also in charge of washday.

4 CHAT The island is the perfect place to enjoy a snack and share tales of the day. Guests are close without ever getting in the way of serious meal preparations.

5 SIT A blend of banquette and chairs lets everyone gather for meals or crank out paperwork or homework. Drawers under bench seating house electronics when not in use.

6 UNWIND Open to the kitchen and dining space, the living area encourages interaction among everyone in the home.

solutions: fridge & freezer

Spend more time around the table and less looking for ingredients.

Writer Emily Elveru



1 secret stash

Designate a small cooler drawer for breakfast food, snacks, or allergy-safe items to cut down on time spent searching for goods in the big icebox.

2 chalk to it

A wall hugging the fridge creates space for a floor-to-ceiling chalkboard. Keep the kiddos entertained before meals, track your grocery list, or display family schedules all in one place.

3 prepped and ready

Maximize freezer shelves and prevent puncturing food wrap by employing a corner cupboard organizer to hold premade meals and frozen pizzas.

4 leveling up

Most people forget about this fab fridge feature: adjustable shelves. Don't settle for the manufacturer's placement. Assert your stacking potential by moving shelves to best fit the size of all your containers and bottles.



solutions: on wheels

These units conceal, roll, and store more in tight spaces.

Writer **Emily Elveru**



2



1



3

1 culinary 101

Fresh paint, coordinating countertop, and locking casters take this desk from classroom to kitchen. Extra inches from the casters and counter raise the unit to standing work height, and drawers provide space for kitchen tools.

2 entertainment station

Serve beverages and snacks in a snap with a portable bar cart. Combine antique finds and store-bought items to outfit a cart to your standards.

3 tool trolley

A stationary island becomes mobile with the addition of locking casters. Pump up the functionality even further by affixing spray-painted pegboard on the front or sides to keep utensils close at hand.

4 undercover counter

Disguise a roll-out work area as a base cabinet by fitting it under the existing countertop. Here, the toe-kick detail further masks the wheels while a towel bar attached to the unit's front makes a nifty handle.

MONEY-SAVING TIP

When choosing casters, remember two key words: large and locking. The larger the wheel, the easier a cart rolls. A locking caster can be activated with your foot and prevent the cart from unexpectedly moving while in use. Invest in a higher quality caster for longer wear and less future maintenance.



solutions: waste & recycling

Live greener with built-in bins, handsome baskets, and portable caddies. Writer Emily Elveru



1 compost collector

Keep a small can close at hand to transport waste from the top of the work surface to the backyard compost bin. This pail drops easily into a precut circle.

2 on the go

A cart set near the door collects paper, plastic, and glass items before rolling to the garage or curb. Bags placed inside the caddy further divide recyclables.

3 completely covered

Choose food waste bins with handles and lids to easily transport scraps to an outdoor compost area and contain any odor from leftover fruits and veggies.

4 basket case

Convert a standard hamper into an eye-pleasing recycling sorter. Subcontainers meant to separate lights and darks stand in place to divide papers and plastics.



products: what to buy

Make the hub of your home a tidy place to cook and entertain with these smart storage solutions.



1 color theory

Food-safe Orla Kiely canisters are a colorful alternative to a chaotic countertop. At 8 inches tall, they're ideal for tea, coffee, and dry goods (\$13 each). The Container Store; 888/266-8246; containerstore.com

2 seal team

Airtight gaskets on these food storage containers extend the freshness of snacks and leftovers. Use the included pump to lock out moisture and air (\$18 for a 7-piece bowl set). Zevro; 877/242-2636; zevro.com



3 rank & file

Keep cutting boards, serving dishes, and trays sorted within a base cabinet with this roll-out bamboo divider. Steel wire fittings secure heavy items (\$79). The Container Store; 888/266-8246; containerstore.com

4 room to grow

Deep cabinets and clever storage make the Sektion line a hit with even the most particular cook (\$181 for open base cabinet with pullout, *left*; \$349 for base cabinet with interior drawer, *right*). IKEA; 800/434-4532; ikea.com



4



6

7



5



8

5 dry spell

Short on counter space? This expandable dish rack features a slide-out tray for pots and bowls and a stemware holder to protect wine glasses (\$60, similar). Pfaltzgraff; 800/999-2811; pfaltzgraff.com

6 slice & store

Chop fruits and veggies on these BPA-free cutting board bases, then top them with coordinating collapsible lids for easy storage (\$15 for a set of three). Organize-It; 800/210-7712; organizeit.com

7 eco disposal

Fruit flies are a thing of the past when you choose this compost-collecting bin. It allows oxygen to flow through kitchen waste, causing food to decompose more slowly and with less stink (\$30). Rodale's; 888/891-8900; rodales.com

8 go for a spin

This scratch- and shatter-resistant lazy Susan is perfect for keeping spices and oils close at hand. Heat-resistant material makes it dishwasher safe (\$35). French Bull; 212/317-9646; frenchbull.com

Replicate the look of a museum gallery—without the strict rules—by attaching a clamp light to the top shelf of a bookcase. Aim the fixture to illuminate your collections.



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living spaces

Whether large or small, a high-traffic area quickly dissolves into a cluttered mess without a good organizing system. Add personality and structure with transportable baskets, adjustable shelves, and secret storage compartments.



the ultimate living room

Clever hideaways tame technology in this high-performing family space.

What takes place behind the scenes is often the key to keeping busy family spaces in check. In this picturesque living room, one cleverly designed wall plays the leading role in maintaining order. By making use of concealed storage, display space, and plenty of smart organizing ideas, the wall gives the room functionality with style to spare.

To set this room's main multitasking wall in motion, free-standing stock base cabinets are flanked by basic unfinished bookcases. Decorative crown molding gives the illusion of built-ins. Open shelving provides landing spots for books, binders, and accessories, while frosted-glass doors added to the central cabinets keep more-functional belongings out of sight.

The real showstopper in the room is between the bookcases. Painted blue and adorned with custom artwork, two rolling panels read as a wall when closed. But pushing them to either side reveals a large television. The design means the big black

box can be out of sight when entertaining guests but unveiled for movie night.

Receiving a shout-out as the room's most versatile performer is the chic, hardworking coffee table. This piece was custom-designed to stow small items for work and play for both kids and adults. Industrial casters mean it's easily movable.

To further support this room's clean and uncluttered character, streamlined furnishings were chosen, as was a serene color palette with lots of crisp white, neutrals, and soothing green and blue hues. The result is the perfect blend of an impeccable grown-up living room with all the workings of a carefree, do-it-all family retreat.

RESOURCES BEGIN ON PAGE 117.

Writer **Pamela Porter** Photographers **Adam Albright & Jay Wilde**
Producer **Leslie Poyzer**

THIS PHOTO: One hardworking wall is the secret to this clutter-free living room, complete with an ultra-sleek solution for concealing a big television. Color-coordinated decorative accessories keep open shelving looking neat. **OPPOSITE:** Form and function coexist in a one-of-a-kind coffee table fashioned from eight ready-to-assemble drawers and three butcher-block tabletops.



Little ledges built into the coffee table's design keep remotes within reach.



Hang panels on the same track, so they close flush rather than bypass each other.



Movable plywood panels, above, are an ingenious way to hide a television. The panels are mounted to a closet track installed behind the crown molding. Floor guides mounted on top of the base cabinets keep the panels from swinging out at the bottom. Artwork split in half is mounted to each panel and looks like a single canvas when the panels close.

A wood caddy, left, built from maple plywood, fits over the sofa arm and holds electronic devices, books, or a snack. Felt pads on the underside keep the caddy in place and protect the upholstery.



MAKE YOUR OWN CADDY TONIGHT

Visit BHG.com/CouchCaddy for complete how-to instructions to build a sleek tech caddy that fits your armrest perfectly.



Tall unfinished bookshelves, *left*, were primed and painted crisp white. The open shelves are adjustable to suit changing needs. Translucent glass panels on the base cabinets shield contents from view but, no worries, most remote controls work through the panels without having to open the doors.

Baskets, *below left*, sort games, books, and snacks inside a base cabinet.

A collection of matching binders, *below*, organizes paperwork or photos by year. Colorful washi tape and markers serve as quick-and-easy labels.

Wood tags, *bottom*, are marked with a wood burner and tied onto woven baskets with baker's twine.



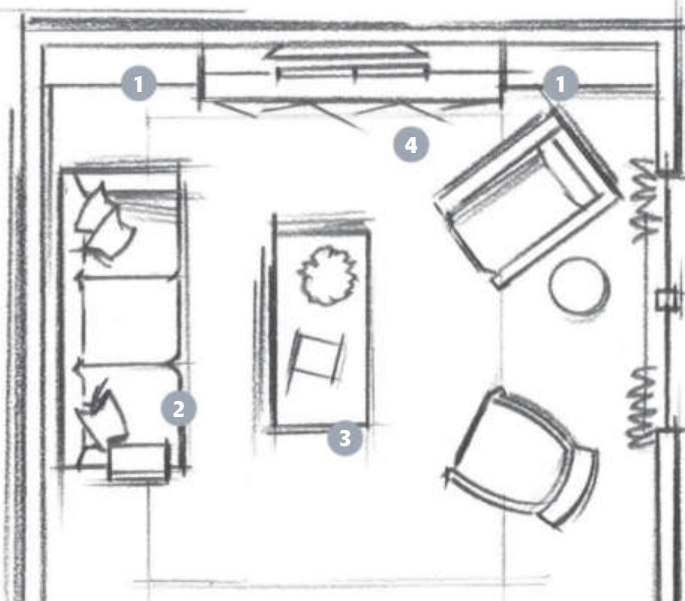


When planning a project (such as a storage-savvy living space), keep an idea folder for sketches, magazine and catalog tear sheets, printouts from inspiring blogs, and Pinterest. Include a floor plan with measurements of the room, furniture, and any relevant architectural features.

Whether for board games, homework, or a casual snack, this tabletop handles it all. Ample drawers below corral just about anything.



in the zone Clutter-concealing solutions make this space picture-perfect.



1 DISPLAY

Two tall bookcases show off pretty collections and books. Baskets and trays organize smaller and less-attractive items.

2 CONNECT

A clever caddy rests on the sofa arm, keeping a phone, tablet, or laptop within reach. It's even a good landing pad for the remote control.

3 WORK & PLAY

A storage-packed rolling coffee table at the room's center serves as game table and work space. Drawers are accessible from both sides.

4 RELAX

Rolling panels and base cabinets allow for perfect viewing and solutions to hide components and cords.



A custom coffee table, *opposite*, was cleverly fashioned from IKEA drawers and tabletops. Casters allow it to roll conveniently where needed.

One base cabinet, *above left*, houses a wireless printer and other office essentials for a conveniently located workstation where no one would expect it. Acrylic bins keep contents tidy yet in view.

Pullout shelves, *top*, mean easy access to low shelves. Electrical wall outlets are accessed by using cable pass-through plates in the cabinet backs.

A cable-hiding box, *above*, along with clever wraps and tags, keeps cords out of sight and tangle free.

solutions: coffee tables

Function combined with flair deserves center stage in your living space. Writer Emily Elveru



1 tiered table

Top a cushioned ottoman with a large tray to collect books, remote controls, and decor. You gain bonus points if the footstool contains a lower shelf to stash reading material.

2 hidden treasure

A hinge-top table with deep storage compartments camouflages bulky or unattractive items, like board games and electronic components. Sectioned chambers keep pieces from sliding or shuffling.

3 modular appeal

Don't limit a coffee table to one stationary piece. Combine two or more identical tables to create a unified surface or pull them apart for individual landing spaces.

4 step up function

Look for a table with multiple levels of storage. Contain tabletop items by setting out decorative trays and bowls.

SPACE-SAVING TIP

A room appears larger when the eye can easily move through it, so look for tables with skinny legs, thin shelves, and open construction to add order without adding heaviness.

4



solutions: book lovers

Too many tomes for your home to handle? Not anymore. Writer Emily Elveru



1



2



3

1 all about that base

Start with the sturdiest and heaviest hardcovers to begin building an unconventional end table. Continue stacking to suit the height of your chair or sofa and top with a piece of glass to protect from scratches or spills.

2 floating fiction

Glue an L-shape bracket to the inside back cover and inside pages of a book you don't plan on reading again. Secure the outside bracket to the wall then stack with books and decor.

3 top shelf text

Install long shelves to utilize open space above a seating area and stack those too-good-to-give-away titles. Prevent bowing by reinforcing the heavy load with brackets every 18–24 inches.

4 on the stand

Manage multiple book sizes in an upright book tower. For appealing order, arrange from warm to cool colors.



solutions: portable hosting

Entertaining in any room just got easy with these carryall caddies. Writer Emily Elveru



1



2



3

1 tabletop toolbox

A couple coats of paint transform a tackle box into a go-to party kit complete with name tags, napkin holders, and centerpiece decor.

2 set for guests

Ease buffet line chaos and make picnics possible by providing each guest a tray outfitted with dishware and linens. After dinner, dirty dishes stay contained in stackable trays for quick cleanup.

3 finishing touches

This repurposed toolbox turns a backyard barbecue into a refined meal without taking multiple trips to the kitchen, pantry, or linen closet. Separate the various tabletop items, like candles and silverware, using cups and mugs.

4 party essentials

Canning jars filled with forks, knives, spoons, and other dining essentials create a station perfect for the serving line.

MONEY-SAVING TIP

Look around the home for items you already own to outfit a go-to hosting caddy. Canning jars, vintage food canisters, and bath organizers arranged in a repurposed bucket hold silverware to quickly move from the kitchen countertop to the serving table.



products: what to buy

These simple storage solutions will turn your living space into a fun, functional place the entire family enjoys.



1 take a load off

Keep toys or gear neatly out of sight in these ribbed buckets, then put a lid on and have a seat—each container supports up to 330 pounds (\$22). The Container Store; 888/266-8246; containerstore.com

2 pattern play

Made from felt pieces sewn into prisms, these soft-sided baskets are ideal for plush animals or rolled blankets (\$17 for 11-inch bin, \$25 for 16-inch bin). Land of Nod; 800/933-9904; landofnod.com

3 mod squad

Combine stained walnut veneer cabinets, bookshelves, and towers from the Nook Storage Set to customize your own media center (\$2,198 for the configuration above). West Elm; 888/922-4119; westelm.com

4 side slide

Stash silverware, linens, or place mats conveniently inside the PS 2014 dining table. Powder-coated drawers slide from either end to expose hidden storage (\$199). IKEA; 800/434-4532; ikea.com



5



6



7



8

5 it's showtime

Made from steel and finished with a soft matte coating, the sophisticated Nest Media Bin is ideal for storing DVDs, CDs, or video games (\$17). The Container Store; 888/266-8246; containerstore.com

6 inside story

With a 21-inch-deep seat, this backless storage bench offers more interior space than other storage benches. Tuck away blankets, shoes, or clothes (\$200). Hayneedle; 866/530-4155; hayneedle.com

7 stack & store

Stack these two- and three-cube frames, then add colorful sliding door panels and bin fronts to customize the look (\$199 per frame, add-ons start at \$10). Land of Nod; 800/933-9904; landofnod.com

8 tall order

Show off books, bar supplies, or prized collections on this shapely étagère. Constructed from metal and finished on all sides, it's ideal for any living, dining, or family room (\$200). Sauder; 800/523-3987; sauder.com



Calling all thrift store lovers!
This vintage letter sorter found
new life as a holder for cosmetics
and cherished correspondence.

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personal spaces

Life can be stressful. Your rooms shouldn't be. Create a clutter-free sanctuary for every member of the family with smart solutions throughout your home's bedrooms and baths.



the ultimate master suite

An attic remodel turns unused space into a hardworking retreat packed with storage.

Attics present unique design challenges, most notably slanted ceilings, ventilation obstructions, and awkward layouts. But with careful planning and thoughtful design choices, they offer living space you can claim without adding on. This once-empty attic embraced its limitations and worked with the existing footprint to become a relaxing master suite full of smart storage solutions.

Built-ins form the backbone of this space. They substitute for freestanding furniture pieces and offer a cohesive design element. Pitched ceilings prevent the built-ins from extending all the way up the walls, but the smaller, shorter scale helps the space feel open and creates natural spots for decorative items to shine.

In the sleeping area, cabinets frame a large window and create ample room to stash bedding. A window seat piled with pillows is a comfortable perch; the seat lifts for extra storage. A bed with a minimal headboard tucks under the eaves.

The room's large closet is divided into two zones. Half of the closet accommodates hanging clothes with a low rod along the

back wall as well as a higher one on the side wall. The other side caters to folded clothes with built-in drawers and display space for accessories on top.

Smart storage continues in the bathroom where a spa-like aesthetic conceals spots for all the necessities. A custom vanity has a mix of deep drawers for stowing bath products. A soaking tub nestles under the eaves, while a walk-in shower hides behind the chimney. Frosted-glass pocket doors between the bath and sleeping area create privacy without taking up precious floor space.

Even the narrow section occupied by the staircase packs a significant storage punch. A stacking washer/dryer means laundry can be completed en suite. A table and two chairs make the most of a landing and function as a mini office.

RESOURCES BEGIN ON PAGE 117.

Writer **Andrea Cooley** Photographer **Kimberly Gavin**

Producer **Bonnie Broten**

THIS PHOTO: Built-ins that work with the room's ceiling line and windows give the master suite a happy mix of streamlined style and smart storage.

OPPOSITE: Glass-front cabinets show off books and colorful accessories and keep the shelves from becoming a dusty catchall. Extra bed linens and folded seasonal clothing hide behind the solid cabinet door.





A pullout ledge is handy for folding clothes or elevating a laundry basket.

A washer and dryer, *left,* slide into a niche across from the closet for easy-access laundry. The adjacent cabinet stores detergent in the top drawer and dirty laundry in the hamper below.

A base cabinet, *bottom left,* tucks under a skylight and was designed to serve as a second spot for hanging clothes.

A barn-style door, *below,* hangs in front of the two-compartment closet and slides open as needed.





In the closet, *above left*, a combination of hanging rods and shelves adds levels of storage in half of the closet area.

A simple work area, *left*, made up of a Parsons table and small-scale upholstered chairs, nestles in a corner landing and functions as a convenient work space.

Ceramic and acrylic containers, *above*, hold pens, pencils, and other office supplies and help keep the desktop in working order.

This relaxing suite maximizes every inch of usable space by balancing practical storage with thoughtful design.



A soaking tub, *left*, tucks under the eaves across from the vanity in this bathroom with limited standing space. A ledge around the tub holds bath salts, and a low stool keeps additional bath items within easy reach.

A section of the vanity top, *above*, was set lower to avoid shortening the window. The dropped-down portion is ideal for touching up a pedicure. The shallow drawers hold small toiletries, while the low drawer corrals spa-day supplies.



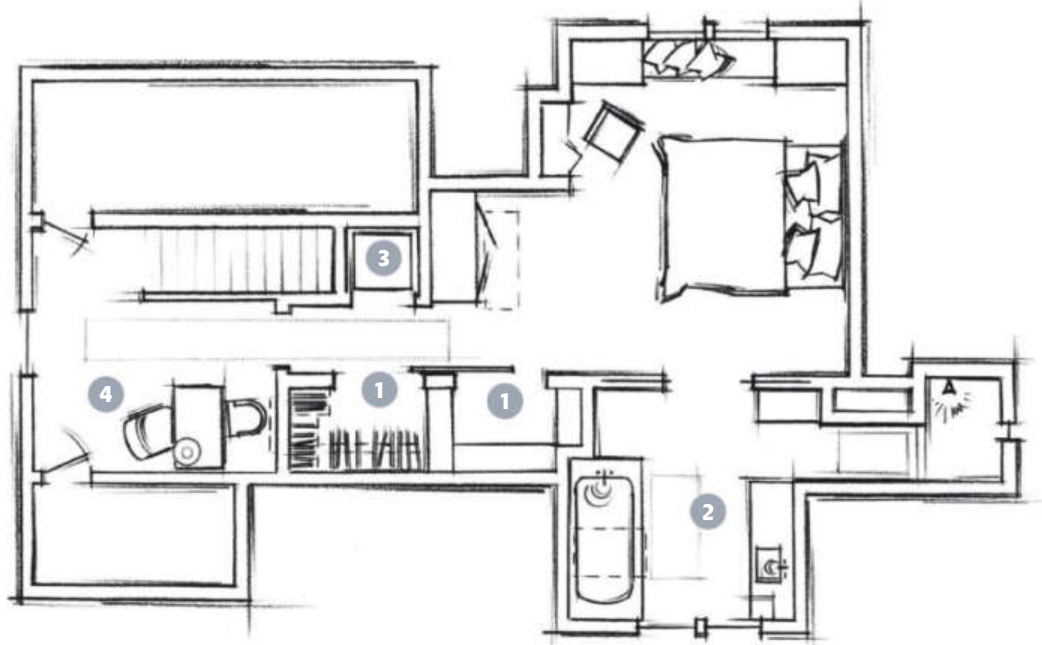
A wall-hugging cabinet, left, acts as a linen closet. Rather than building it to the ceiling, it is chest high to keep the space open. The shower sits around the corner, behind the chimney.

Each shelf in the cabinet, below, has a purpose. Toiletries in bins rest on upper shelves and extra towels are below.



in the zone

A multitasking master suite marries storage and style, making the most of existing space.



1 CONTAIN A two-section closet has bars for hanging items, shelves for shoes, hooks for accessories, and drawers for folded clothes.

2 BATHE Thoughtfully designed cabinets keep the bathroom in order and squeeze in plenty of storage.

3 LAUNDRY A stacked washer and dryer fit into a nook across from the closet. A hamper built into a nearby cabinet collects dirty laundry.

4 WORK A table and a pair of low-back upholstered chairs nestle under the eaves for a cozy work space for two.



the ultimate kid's room

Designed with play and creativity in mind, this tidy bedroom is a girl's dream.

Before its redesign, this bedroom was like most others: a space for playing and sleeping that was in a constant state of disarray. But thanks to smart organizing solutions appropriate for the preschooler who lives here, this bright and cheery room is now a tidy spot for resting, doing arts and crafts, and getting ready for the day.

Ready-to-assemble cubbies with 12-inch-square openings are the basic storage components deployed throughout the room. Two shelving units flank the colorful daybed (which boasts trundle-level storage of its own). The dozen compartments keep toys, books, and stuffed animals organized in open areas and within labeled fabric bins. Atop the shelves, galvanized metal baskets hold dress-up essentials and display-worthy toys. An eight-cubby unit across the room takes the place of a traditional dresser, keeping folded clothes stowed neatly in sturdy bins. The system allows the child to take responsibility for getting dressed each day.

In the adjacent reach-in closet, prefabricated components maximize a double hanging-bar setup and feature a mix of shelves and drawers. In-season clothes hang on the lower bar within reach of little hands, while out-of-season garments stow above. Labels are key in this small space: Similar to "do not disturb" signs found in hotels, these purchased door hangers were painted and labeled to organize garments. Labeled bins on the top shelf ease retrieval of blankets and keepsakes.

Perhaps the star of the room is the kid-friendly desk, ideal for drawing and coloring. Made from a halved plywood table, the wall-mount desk pairs perfectly with an unlikely seat: a cushioned papasan ottoman. Below the desk, a caddy keeps art supplies mobile so creativity can strike anywhere in the room—or the entire house.

RESOURCES BEGIN ON PAGE 117.

Writer **Chelsea Evers** Photographer **Jay Wilde**

Producer **Kimberly Morgan Metz**



THIS PHOTO: Colorful storage and cozy comforts make this bedroom a welcoming place for a young girl to call her own. A bedside shelving unit keeps toys, animals, and dress-up essentials stowed neatly at a kid-friendly height. **OPPOSITE:** Push-button food storage bins are equally effective for sorting little toys like action figures and dolls.





FREE WEEKLY SCHEDULES!

Visit BHG.com/WeeklySchedule to get these printable kid schedules in three colors.



A bold paint scheme, above, sets the mood for the rest of the decor. Floral and butterfly images add whimsy, while a hand-painted geometric border mimics the cubby storage below.

A magnet board, above right, near the daybed displays photos and a weekly schedule. This board was made from a sheet of galvanized metal and fabric scraps taped to the back of a frilly crafts-store frame.

A double-duty daybed, right, offers more than a place to rest. Drawers below hold spare sheets and bedding. A spring-loaded drawer divider keeps stacks of linens neatly folded.



Dress up ho-hum adhesive labels with a layer of decorative tape.



A tidy closet, *above left*, begins with kid-appropriate solutions. A tray holds footwear, while the lower bar puts seasonally appropriate clothing in reach. Labeled bins on the top shelf hold keepsakes, blankets, and less-used accessories.

Door hangers, *above*, serve as inexpensive dividers to help keep clothes organized on hanging bars. Purchased from a crafts store, painted fun colors, and labeled with stickers and decorative tape, they're ideal for keeping little garments separated.

A china storage box, *left*, works well for little shoes. The organizer sits neatly on the floor of the closet for easy access.



Fabric bins, *right*, keep clothes organized. Shallow bins on the upper shelves hold often-worn garments, while tall bins below keep out-of-season clothing. A piece of foam-core board is cut to size and inserted in bins to stabilize stacks.



Plastic trays, *above, far right*, hold small accessories. These 2-inch-deep inserts, filled with sunglasses, headbands, bows, and hair ties, slip seamlessly into the cubical bins.

A cubby shelf unit, *right*, holds folded clothing and accessories in lieu of a dresser. This kid-friendly solution can be reworked as garment size and type changes.

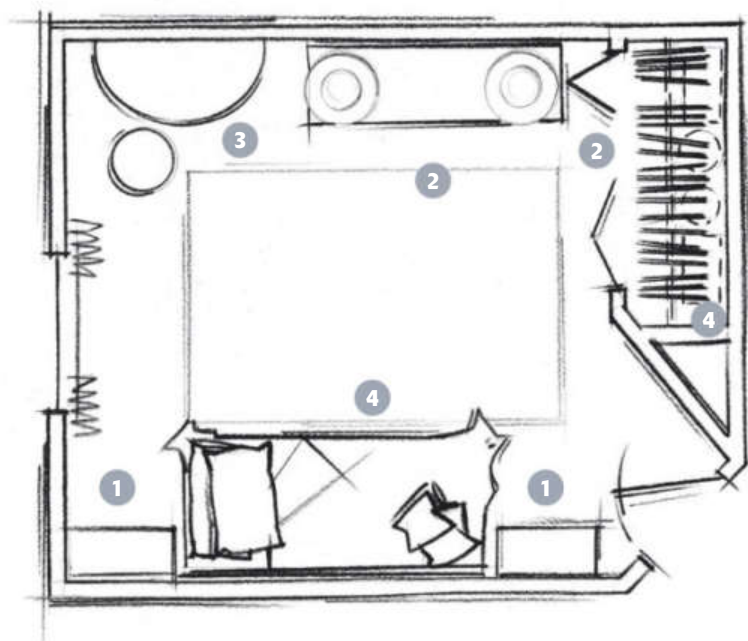
A wall-mount desk, *opposite left*, encourages artistic expression without taking up much room. A papasan footstool becomes a pint-size seating solution, while frames outfitted with dry-erase, cork, and chalkboard surfaces act as ever-evolving canvases.

A woven-paper utensil caddy, *opposite right*, sorts art supplies and activity books. Markers, pencils, and crayons divide easily into openings meant for cutlery, while coloring books stand upright in the largest section.





special thanks to
Shades of Light, IKEA



in the zone

A place for everything means this bedroom stays organized through morning routines and playtime.

1 SHOWCASE Matching shelving units on either side of the daybed keep cherished toys and dress-up supplies at the ready.

2 DRESS With plenty of clothing storage in the closet and in the units with cubbies, this room simplifies getting ready. The double-rod closet holds even more items while keeping them organized.

3 CREATE A corner dedicated to arts and crafts fosters the creation of mini masterpieces. A low wall-mount desk and ottoman combine to form an age-appropriate work space.

4 STOW Drawers under the daybed hide spare sheets and bedding. The uppermost closet shelf, accessible to an adult on a step stool, is devoted to keepsakes, luggage, and off-season clothing.

solutions: bathrooms for two

Sharing becomes easy in a room fit with smart designs and easy-to-reach accessories. Writer Emily Elveru



1 two of a kind

Surround a small sink with identical cabinets. Then designate a specific cabinet or drawer for an individual's towels, shower items, and grooming products.

2 power pullouts

Optimize deep cabinets with built-in pullouts dedicated to specific family members. Implement dividers and low bins to further arrange the belongings.

3 double take

If you want the versatility of two sinks but are limited on space, pair a trough sink with two wall-mount faucets. Affix towel hooks and shelving on the wall above the toilet for additional hanging space.

4 tidy routine

Small ceramic trays contain each person's morning essentials and keep the counter easy to clean.

SPACE-SAVING TIP

Choose an easy-to-clean tray that makes wiping up makeup or product spills effortless. Plastic, acrylic, glass, and ceramic are great choices for the bathroom. Be cautious of porous materials like wovens, unfinished woods, and metals, which can stain and are difficult to clean.



solutions: linen closets

Baskets, dividers, and folding tricks keep items behind closed doors in control.

Writer **Emily Elveru**



1 pillow packs

Wrap pillowcases around matching sheets to keep sets together. Organize each in labeled baskets to carry from room to room on laundry day.

2 wheel-y functional

Make sorting a snap with a hamper outfitted with dark, light, and delicate chambers. Casters ensure smooth transport between the linen closet and washing machine.

3 be our guest

Welcome overnight guests by designating a closet just for them filled with stacks of towels and washcloths and extra toiletries corralled in a tray.

4 order's up

Wire shelf dividers keep tall stacks of towels from toppling. Utilize space above the piles by filling a hanging basket with rolled washcloths or hand towels.



solutions: purses

A few hooks, bins, and dividers bring your accessory obsession to order.

Writer **Emily Elveru**



1 within reach

Prevent wallets and clutches from getting damaged or misplaced by housing them in a closet's less demanded real estate, like the top compartment of a canvas hanging shelf.

2 sitting pretty

Keep frequently carried bags close and in clear view in pullout baskets. Arrange from bigger totes to smaller clutches to quickly find when you're pinched for time.

3 separated lives

Speed up the search for a satchel by separating everyday and special occasion purses between acrylic shelf dividers.

4 hanging on

Dark closets are notorious for hiding accessories. Bring your loveliest items into the light by hanging them on peg-style hooks under a ledge shelf.

SPACE-SAVING TIP

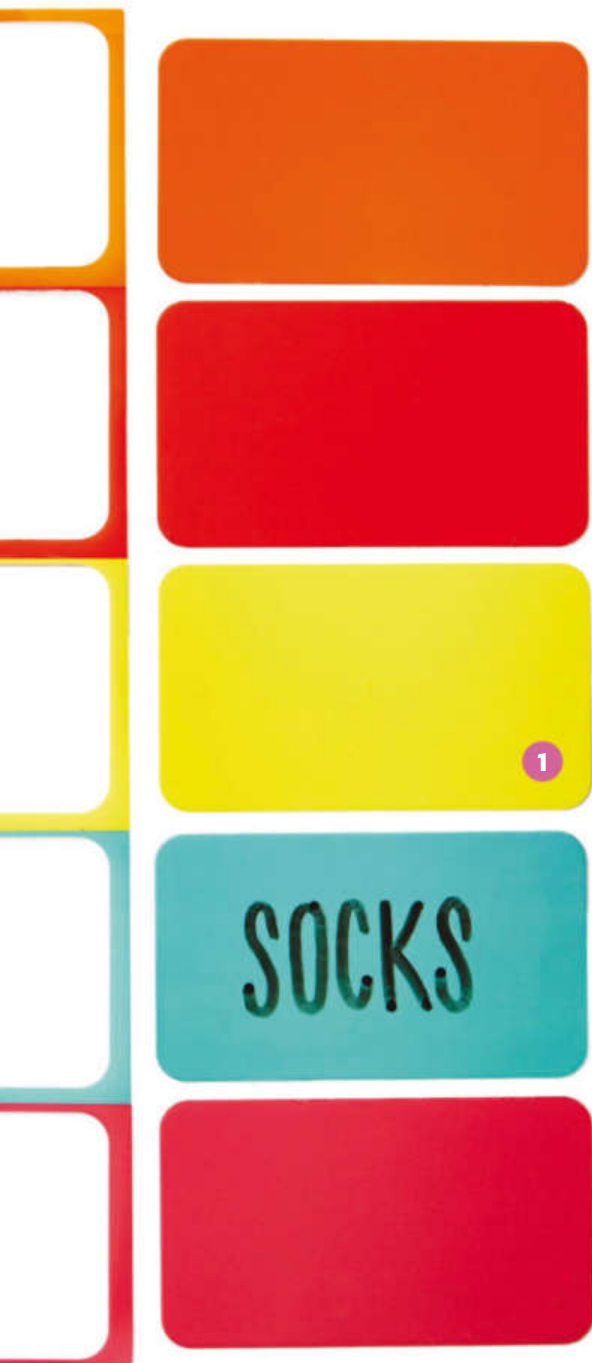
Hanging heavy purses can lead to misshapen handles. Instead, leave the hooks to lighter purses and retain the shape of bigger bags by stuffing them with clothes that don't crease, like T-shirts, sweatshirts, or leggings.

4



products: what to buy

Make mornings less hectic when you organize bed and bath spaces with these get-ready essentials.



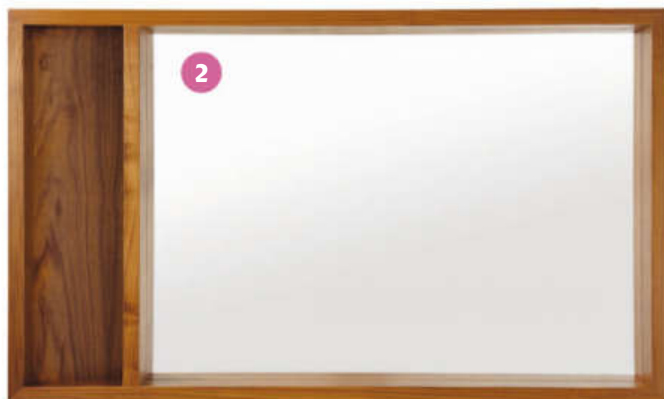
1 bright idea

Categorize plastic and wood containers with these dry-erase silicone labels, then wipe and relabel as contents change (\$10 for a pack of 10). The Container Store; 888/266-8246; containerstore.com



2 styling star

The 4-inch-deep frame around the Loft Mirror serves as a perch for frequently used grooming products. Choose from four finishes (starting at \$499). Room & Board; 800/301-9720; roomandboard.com

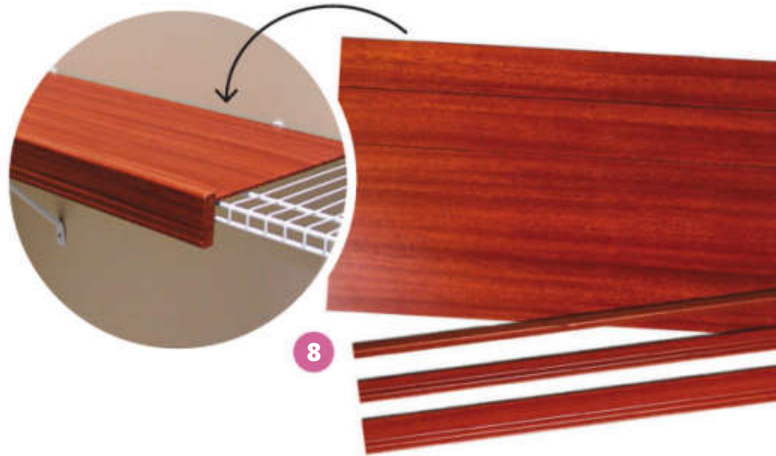


3 luxe living

Custom cabinetry brings sophisticated storage to your bedroom. Primp like royalty with pullouts, glass doors, and crown molding. Plain & Fancy Custom Cabinetry; 800/447-9006; plainfancycabinetry.com

4 amped hamper

This eco-friendly lidded bamboo sorter stands 24 inches tall and features two interior canvas bins to separate whites and darks throughout the week (\$140). Crate & Barrel; 800/967-6696; crateandbarrel.com



5 clearly better

Heels stay upright and dust-free when you store them in these tall shoeboxes. The clear stackable lids mean you can stack and sort easily (\$4). The Container Store; 888/266-8246; containerstore.com

6 tray chic

Keep bracelets and necklaces tangle-free with Jewelry Stax trays. Choose from a dozen configurations to suit your collection of finishing touches (starting at \$9). Neatnix; 800/683-6328; neatnix.com

7 drawer delight

Deposit shoes, cosmetics, or grooming necessities inside the petite labeled drawers of a Sprutt cabinet made of powder-coated steel (\$89 for configuration shown above). IKEA; 800/434-4532 ikea.com

8 great cover-up

Give your ho-hum closet a budget-friendly upgrade. This wood laminate kit transforms wire shelving into sleek storage (starting at \$20). John Louis Home; 800/480-6985; johnlouisshome.com



Collect keys, mail, and loose change in small trays and bowls in your entry drop zone. When guests stop by, whisk away all the items on a large platter.

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work spaces

Turn procrastination into productivity by giving your laundry, office, and recreation areas the attention they deserve. With labeled bins, extra hooks, and designated shelves, you'll complete projects and tasks in record time.



the ultimate utility room

This hardworking headquarters has everything a family needs to stay organized.

Talk about multitasking! This utility room—originally an enclosed porch—combines a laundry, bath, mudroom, and family communication station in calm, collected style.

Laundry facilities are packed into a corridor that's less than 6 feet wide, creating a step-saving area for washday. Smart accessories let you tackle soiled clothes as soon as they come through the back door. Open shelves hold supplies in plain view so there's no question where to find stain remover or detergents. Capping the washer and dryer with a solid-surfacing countertop creates a convenient place for folding. A rod stretches across its expanse, supplying hanging space for freshly ironed clothes. The uppermost cabinets accommodate a host of fix-it supplies, batteries, and bulk-shopping extras.

A pretty but practical bath is a few steps beyond the laundry area. Offering privacy thanks to a space-saving pocket door, the room boasts personal storage in a built-in cabinet, a custom

vanity, and optimized medicine cabinet. Even the dog claims bathing privileges here, with a handheld sprayer in the shower and a caddy dedicated to shampoos and brushes.

Every busy family benefits from a definitive grab-and-go spot for coats, backpacks, library books, and sports equipment. The area just inside the back door acts as a mudroom with a trio of lockers. Compartments offer easy-access, open shelves for shoes and multiple hooks for each child. Off-season accessories can be hidden in upper closed cabinets.

On a scrap of open wall by the back door, paperwork organizers and sanity-saving calendars keep family members on schedule. Attached directly to beaded-board panels, these off-the-rack accessories make smart use of untapped space.

RESOURCES BEGIN ON PAGE 117.

Writer **Mara Boo** Photographer **Jay Wilde** Producer **Cathy Kramer**



THIS PHOTO: At the end of a corridor, laundry appliances are topped by a handy counter. Shelves on either side stow a bevy of cleaning and household necessities, all neatly stashed in baskets and canisters. **OPPOSITE:** Vintage-style glass jars decant oversize laundry cleaners into more manageable containers. Chalkboard labels amplify the nostalgic vibe.

work spaces



A portable plastic emergency kit, *above*, holds extra batteries, flashlights, candles, matches, and first aid supplies.

Mending supplies and stain treatments, *above right*, are within reach in clear and woven containers. An iron rests below on a heat-resistant silicone pad.

A foldable heatproof pad, *right*, eliminates the need for a space-hogging ironing board, making room for other items in this compact laundry.

Nonslip hangers, *left*, keep laundered shirts and slacks wrinkle free while awaiting transfer to bedroom closets. The tension rod is also a handy spot to air-dry delicate items that don't go in the dryer.



A tiered drying rack can hang from this rod. It collapses flat for easy storage.





FREE STAIN-REMOVAL KIT

Visit BHG.com/StainTags to download our printable stain-removal tag kit.





A pocket door, above, links bath to laundry. It affords privacy while saving space.



A tall built-in linen closet, right, is loaded with practical necessities, including toiletries for houseguests, cleaning supplies, and hair accessories, all obscured behind a frosted-glass door. The bottom drawer stores picnic blankets, umbrellas, water bottles, and other bulky items.

A retractable clothesline, right, mounts between shower walls to drip-dry wet bathing suits and towels.

Plastic drawer dividers, far right, separate clean socks and underwear by kid in a deep drawer alongside the shower.





A quick-dry metal basket, *left*, groups dog-washing supplies. A slender, handheld sprayer makes quick work of rinsing Fido.

An unassuming custom vanity, *below*, resembles classic furniture but packs a major storage punch.

A smartly designed cleaning caddy, *right*, hugs tall cleaning supply bottles. It slips inside a plastic bucket that's easy to tote from room to room.

A U-shape drawer, *below right*, curves around plumbing beneath the sink, putting oft-wasted space to maximum use.



A shallow organizer clusters manicure supplies on a medicine cabinet shelf.

Cabinets designed to resemble lockers, right, cater to each child with a trio of hooks for hanging coats, backpacks, and bike helmets. A slightly deeper lower section creates a narrow ledge that functions as a practical perch when pulling off boots. Double-height shoe shelves are lined with wipe-clean laminate paper.

A command center, opposite left, hangs on the wall near the back door. Magnetic metal file pockets organize each child's homework and permission slips, while clipboards hold the month's schedules. All elements are affixed with removable sticky strips so the pieces can be replaced and reconfigured as needs change.

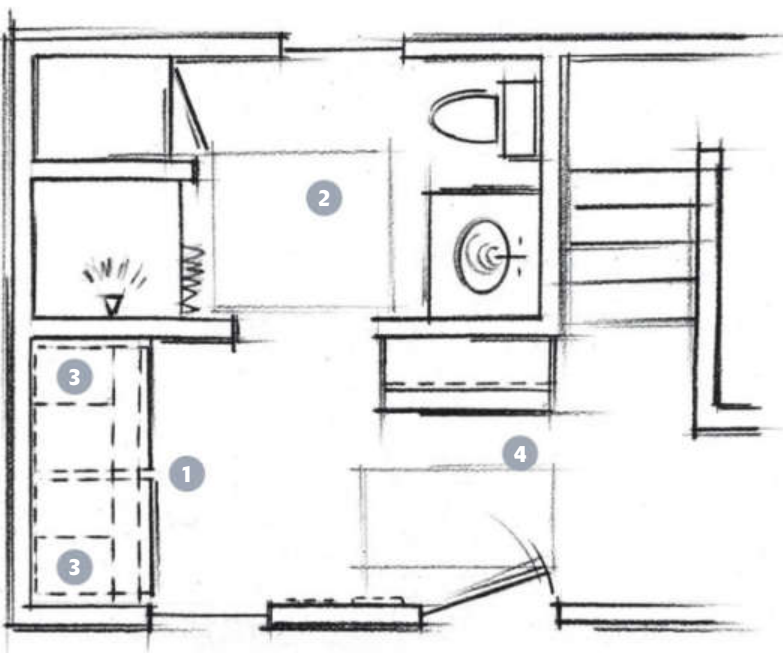
A magnetic strip, opposite right, gathers keys. Invitations, bills, and important mail are contained in an adults-only wall pocket. A miniature mesh bin holds small pads of paper and pens for jotting quick notes and errand lists on the way out the door.





special thanks to

Lowe's, MasterBrand Cabinets, Sherwin-Williams, Staron Surfaces, SunTouch Floor Heating, Three by Three, The Tile Shop



in the zone

Detailed planning and clever use of space maximize the usefulness of this porch-turned-utility room.

1 LAUNDRY A single wall houses everything needed to sort, wash, dry, iron, fold, and hang laundry. Smart accessories, such as a foldable ironing pad and a collapsible drying rack, save space.

2 BATHE An integral part of the multipurpose room yet closed off by its own door, this bath is the preferred cleanup zone for kids and pets.

3 PREPARE Emergency kits, picnic gear, and mending supplies are sorted into baskets, canisters, and bins. Labels ensure family members can find what they need quickly and easily.

4 DROP Whether heading out or returning home, kids know exactly where coats, shoes, umbrellas, and sunscreen belong, making frantic forays for lost mittens an annoyance of the past.

solutions: active gear

Stop equipment pileups with partitioned cabinets, baskets, and hooks.

Writer Emily Elveru



1 in plain sight

Quit digging through dark, unmarked containers for your gear. Metal mesh bins let you quickly spot equipment you'll need on the way to the park or to track inventory from season to season.

2 shifting needs

Movable shelves minimize wasted space. Choose a tall cabinet with doors to hold long, stacked, and bulky items.

3 wall power

Hooks and baskets mounted on 4-foot sheets of slat wall slide to fit your changing assortment of sports and outdoor equipment.

4 tote & roll

Look for handled baskets, canvas bags, and storage carts to transport gear from the mudroom to the car in one strain-free trip. Here, a wheeled laundry hamper makes it easy to hold playthings.

MONEY-SAVING TIP

No closet? No problem. A rolling clothes rack outfitted with baskets, hooks, and a hanging shoe organizer takes this area from a disorganized drop zone to a carefully contained corner. Add a stool with underseat storage as a spot to sit and stash off-season items.



solutions: walls around desks

Create a clutter-free work area and watch productivity soar. Writer Emily Elveru



1 collection bin

Fill small buckets with pens and markers then dangle on hooks above the tabletop to prevent crafting spills. These removable containers also easily transport to other work spaces around the home.

2 pinteresting concept

Rethink the standard bulletin board by pinning fabric ribbon in a whimsical pattern on the wall. Pull the ribbon tight and secure with a flat pushpin every 2–3 inches to hold mementos and lists.

3 optimized office

High shelves, magnetic boards, and mail sorters climb the walls above a workstation to safely store materials and notes.

4 open to ideas

Let your projects flourish outside of a pocket folder by displaying inspirational ephemera and upcoming assignments on clipboards above the desk. Assign a project, day of the week, or topic to each.

SPACE-SAVING TIP

Declutter your desk by recording the month's events on an open wall. After taping off a 32×45-inch calendar grid, apply three coats of chalk paint to each 6-inch square.



solutions: behind the door

Bars, baskets, and benches are major must-haves for every tight space. Writer Emily Elveru



1 raising the bar

Exchange terry cloth for table linens on a towel rack hung behind a closet door. The rounded bar minimizes wrinkles and creases caused by folding and stacking.

2 one-wall wonder

Convert a nearly nonexistent entry into a multifaceted mudroom. Hang coats and bags on high hooks above a bench, place shoes in lined serving trays, and drop keys in a wall-mounted utensil tray.

3 pipe dream

Adorn painted PVC pipe with drilled-in holes, eye hooks, and extenders to hold tools, tape, and cleanup gear for your fast-fix needs.

4 nifty nook

Adding a half-wall between the entry and kitchen creates a drop zone outfitted with a bench, storage baskets, and much-needed hooks.





products: what to buy

Whether you're paying bills, doing laundry, or enjoying a hobby, these clever goods help get the job done.



1 office brightener

This powder-coated steel file cabinet tidies office supplies and hanging files. Available in several bright colors, the unit ships fully assembled with three drawer tray inserts (\$289). Poppin; 888/676-7746; poppin.com

2 hobby helper

Optimize your hobby space with this wall-mount system. Customize shelves and drawers (\$1,014 for Driftwood & Platinum Activity Space shown above). The Container Store; 888/266-8246; containerstore.com

3 weathertight

Block out moisture, dust, and pests with watertight totes and lockable trunks available in sizes 19–74 quarts (starting at \$10). The Container Store; 888/266-8246; containerstore.com

4 mudroom mate

Drop tall boots or umbrellas in this bamboo organizer's side compartment, then stack shoes and bags on slatted shelving (\$60). The Organizing Store; 800/977-8150; theorganizingstore.com



5 wall wonder

Turn bare walls into functional storage spaces with modular StoreWall panels. Attach hooks and shelves to keep tools and supplies organized (\$389 for a three-shelf kit). StoreWall; 866/ 889-2502; storewall.com

6 hang dry

Do laundry in style! This rail-and-peg system includes three rails, one drying rack, a hanging canvas hamper, and a multi-shelf unit for organizing supplies (\$359). Pottery Barn; 888/779-5176; potterybarn.com

7 wrinkle release

Iron garments anywhere, any time with the easy-fold Alpha Ironing Mat. A built-in silicone trivet can withstand up to 400 degrees Fahrenheit (\$55). Bonita; 844/266-4821; bonitaglobal.com

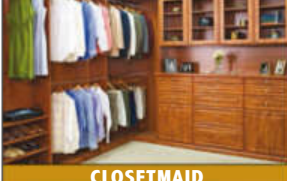
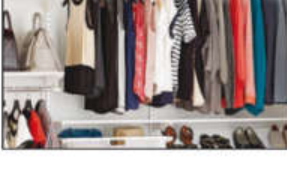
8 logic cubed

Sort pens, mail, paper clips, and other office supplies in these six artfully carved bamboo desk blocks (\$25 for set). Lipper International; 800/243-3129; lipperinternational.com

closet systems

REFERENCE GUIDE

One system does not fit all when it comes to closets. This info on manufacturers and product lines will help you plan your closet makeover, whatever your budget.

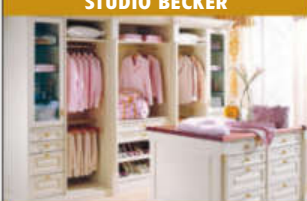
COMPANY	PRODUCT LINES/MATERIALS	PRICE	HOW TO FIND	CONTACT
CALIFORNIA CLOSETS 	Multiple product lines and finishes, including the Lago finishes inspired by Italian wood veneers. Design options and product line availability vary by location.	Closet systems begin at \$500; typical systems cost \$1,500–\$5,000 installed.	Approximately 100 franchise locations worldwide.	888/336-9707; californiaclosets.com
CLOSET FACTORY 	Custom-designed and installed closet systems available in a variety of finishes and veneers including melamine and stained and painted sustainable wood options. Accessories include decorative moldings, specialty doors, and embellishments.	8-foot reach-in closet starts at \$750.	Locations nationwide.	800/634-9000; closetfactory.com
CLOSETS BY DESIGN 	Three product lines at varying price points: Everyday, Classic, and Regency collections. Large selection of colors and wood-grain finishes, accessories, and molding packages. Systems are custom-built to fit any need, space, and taste.	Installed custom closet starts at \$300.	Locations nationwide.	888/500-9215; closetsbydesign.com
CLOSETMAID 	ShelfTrack wire shelving and easy-to-install vertical standards combine with snap-in-place brackets, bars, and shelves. Choose a preassembled all-in-one organizer kit, or create a custom design from open stock.	8-foot reach-in closet: about \$130.	Sold online and through 65+ stores nationwide.	800/874-0008; closetmaid.com
THE CONTAINER STORE 	Two customizable modular shelving and drawer systems: Elfa and Elfa Décor. Elfa: steel-wire components in two finishes, plastic drawer liners, and melamine shelves and drawers. Elfa Décor: epoxy-steel mounting elements and components in an array of wood and wood-veneer finishes.	\$250–\$4,000, depending on customizations.	Sold online and through 57 stores nationwide; free design service in stores, by phone, and online.	888/266-8246; containerstore.com



Shop for closet components

Start planning and shopping for closet systems. Our complete closet system chart at bhg.com/NewCloset shows you how.

COMPANY	PRODUCT LINES/MATERIALS	PRICE	HOW TO FIND	CONTACT
EASY TRACK 	Do-it-yourself closet kits offer personalized built-in systems with vertical panels and adjustable shelves and rods. Available in Natural, Cherry, White, or Truffle. Add drawers, baskets, doors, or additional kits to customize.	4- to 8-foot reach-in closet kit starts at \$175.	Sold at retail stores, home centers, and online.	800/562-4257; easytrack.com
EASYCLOSETS.COM 	High-end DIY custom organizers ship directly to customers. Easy to afford, design online, and install. Guaranteed systems made from ¾-inch high-density particleboard with durable melamine coating in seven colors and seven hardware finishes. Upgrades and accessories optional.	Custom reach-in closets start at \$260; typical walk-in closet: \$800-\$1,700; priced by design.	Sold exclusively online; design online or use free design service. Customer services by phone.	800/910-0129; easyclosets.com
JOHN LOUIS HOME 	Made of solid wood, the do-it-yourself closet organizers come with everything in one box. Multiple organizer depths, finishes, and configuration options, and plenty of accessory add-ons available.	6- to 10-foot reach-in closet: \$250; 6- to 10-foot walk-in closet: \$500-\$850, based on add-ons.	Sold online at retailers and through specialty stores, home centers, and authorized dealers.	800/480-6985; johnlouishome.com
ORG 	Customizable solutions professionally designed and installed by authorized dealers. Available in a wide selection of colors, finishes, and styles.	\$500-\$5,000, based on add-ons.	Sold through authorized dealers.	800/562-4257; orghome.com
POLIFORM USA 	Walk-in closets and wardrobes composed of modular components made in Italy and custom-designed to fit any space. Wardrobe options available with leaf, folding, or sliding doors with finishes including matte and glossy lacquer, wood veneer, laminate, glass, and mirror.	Wardrobe pricing available upon request.	Available through corporate showrooms and dealers nationwide.	888/765-4367; poliformusa.com
RUBBERMAID 	The adjustable Closet Helper 2-Shelf, 4-Shelf, and Max Add-On kits install without tools. Metal with durable white finish. Fabric cubby accessories available. HomeFree series is rubber-coated wire with optional baskets, drawers, and cubbies.	Closet Helper and Max Add-On: \$40-\$90; HomeFree kit: about \$100.	Available online. Closet Helper and Max Add-On are at Target and Kmart stores. HomeFree is at Lowe's.	888/895-2110; rubbermaid.com

COMPANY	PRODUCT LINES/MATERIALS	PRICE	HOW TO FIND	CONTACT
SCHULTE STORAGE 	FreedomRail adjustable storage systems with O-Boxes, shelving, and accessories. Cherry, Maple, Chocolate Pear, White, Driftwood Live, and Light Oak real-wood veneers, and white or nickel ventilated shelving. Strong, versatile, and easy to install.	8-foot reach-in closet: \$400–\$1,000.	Available online.	513/277-3700; freedomrail.com
STUDIO BECKER 	Custom Studio Becker cabinetery available in Modern, Timeless, and Traditional wardrobe lines. Accessories include specialty clothing storage and organizational inserts for jewelry, shoes, belts, and ties.	Starting at \$800 per linear foot.	Sold through authorized dealers and showrooms worldwide.	415/626-9000; studiobecker.com
WOODTRAC 	WoodTrac closets are available in three finishes with adjustable drawers, doors, and shelves. Preconfigured cabinets come in three widths and mount to wall or floor. Made from 3/4-inch furniture-grade particleboard and medium-density fiberboard; backed by a limited lifetime warranty.	Full-length cabinets start at \$185; 8-foot reach-in closet: \$210.	Available online and through authorized local dealers.	855/854-7465; woodtrac.com

PLANNING MAKES PERFECT

To purchase the right types and quantity of closet components, do your homework first. Complete the following before buying any organizers.

- Take inventory.** To know what you need, you need to know what you have. After identifying items to discard or donate, make an itemized list of everything that has to reside in your closet. Then you can determine how much space to delegate for short and long hanging items, and whether you need drawers, shelves, or both.
- Plan for various-height shoes.** There's no one-size-fits-all solution for shoes with tall heels or boots. Measure shoe heights when assessing your needs.
- Allow for new acquisitions.** "One in, one out" is the ideal strategy when it comes to adding clothes to your closet, but cut yourself some slack and purchase components that will accommodate 10–20 percent growth over time.
- Consider relocation.** Stash infrequently worn garments or items of awkward size in alternative spots. Move a robe to a back-of-door hook, a formal gown to a coat closet, or hats to underbed storage rather than sacrificing space for everyday items like shirts and pants.
- Do the math.** Plan your hanging storage around the lengths of your clothes. Use these vertical measurements as a guide.
 - **Women's shirts:** 36–40 inches long
 - **Men's blazers and shirts; women's skirts:** 38–42 inches long
 - **Women's long dresses and coats:** 60–70 inches long
 - **Women's cocktail dresses and pants hung by cuffs:** 48–50 inches long
 - **Pants folded over hanger:** 20–25 inches long



resources

MANY OF THE PRODUCTS SHOWN IN *STORAGE*™ CAN BE OBTAINED LOCALLY. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE SOURCES LISTED IN THIS SECTION. ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS HAVE BEEN VERIFIED, BUT WE CANNOT GUARANTEE AVAILABILITY OF ITEMS.

KEY

[T] To the Trade

These items or services are not available to the general public. Contact a design professional for help.

[P] Paint Color

Because of the magazine printing process, paint colors depicted on our pages might vary slightly from manufacturers' colors. Use paint color names or numbers, when provided, as a starting point. To get the exact color you see in the magazine, take the page to a paint retailer for matching.

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

King Au; Edmund Barr; Gordon Beall; Kim Cornelison; Jason Donnelly; Colleen Duffley; Emily J. Followill; Michael Garland; Tria Giovan; Jay Graham; John Granen; Bob Greenspan; Philip Harvey; Hopkins Associates; Michael Jensen; Sandra Johnson; Scott Little; Andy Lyons; Scott McDonald; Hedrich-Blessing; Alise O'Brien; Michael Partenio; Cameron Sadeghpour; James Salomon; Greg Scheidemann; Shaun Sullivan; James Yochum

On the Cover, Weekend Project: Power-Packed Pantry

PAGES 30–33

Wall paint Crushed Ice SW7647, **trim paint** Snowboard SW7004—The Sherwin-Williams Co.; 800/474-3794; sherwin-williams.com [P]. **Wall paint on back pantry wall** Blue Booties A52-2—Olympic, a product of PPG Architectural Finishes, Inc.; 800/426-6306; olympic.com [P]. **White shelving** Rubbermaid Fast Track Pantry Kit with additional shelving and brackets, **white galvanized metal container for pet food**—Lowe's; lowes.com. **Clear**

canisters with white lids Good Grips POP Containers, **small and large white turntables**—OXO International; 800/545-4411; oxo.com. **Coffee press on white tray** Caffettiera in blue—Bodum; 800/232-6386; bodum.com. **Blue-and-white plastic boxes on top shelf, magazine file, and binder**, all from the Herringbone collection in blue, **pushpins on corkboard** Ball Pushpins—from the See Jane Work collection, Office Depot; 800/685-8800; officedepot.com. **Blue strapping bins, rug** Zig Zag—The Land of Nod; 800/933-9904; landofnod.com. **Chalkboard-type decal on framed grocery list** Chalk by Blik in Light Periwinkle—Blik; whatisblik.com. **Miniature adhesive pocket, white expandable shelf riser, stacking angled bins on floor, folding crate on floor**—The Container Store; 800/786-7315; containerstore.com. **Shelf liner** purchased in roll—Improvements Catalog; 800/634-9484; improvementscatalog.com.

From the Editor

PAGES 6, 8–9

Label maker Our Label Maker with translucent case by Brother—sold exclusively through The Container Store; 800/786-7315; containerstore.com. **Label maker** 160P—Dymo; 877/289-3966; dymo.com. **Shoebox-size clear translucent containers** Style Selections 3-Pack 6.5-Quart Clear Shoe Box with standard snap lids—Lowe's; lowes.com.

Case Study: Mapped Out

PAGES 10–11

Architect Mike Rauch and Devon Johnson, Johnson Squared, Bainbridge Island, Washington; 206/842-9993; johnsonsquared.com. **Wall map**—World Maps Online; 877/884-2402; worldmapsonline.com. **Fabric for poufs**—Amy Butler Design, Granville, Ohio; 740/587-2841; amybutlerdesign.com. **Carpet circles** Made You Look Round rugs—Flor; 866/281-3567; flor.com. **Train set** Thomas the Tank Engine play table—Thomas & Friends Wooden Railway; 800/491-7508;

thomaswoodenrailway.com. **White table** Docksta—IKEA; ikea-usa.com. **Orange chairs** Kendall In/Out folding chairs in orange—Overstock.com; 800/843-2446; overstock.com.

Storage Doctor: Create Without Clutter

PAGES 14–19

Pages 14–15

Upper cabinet Thread cabinet, **lower cabinet** Mat & Hoop cabinet, both from the INSPIRA STUDIO collection—ClosetMaid; 800/874-0008; myinspirastudio.com. **Yellow bin** X-Small Edison bin in yellow, **acrylic bin** by MadeSmart, **white document boxes** Bigso Classic Stockholm Office storage boxes—The Container Store; 800/786-7315; containerstore.com. **Orange mesh pencil cups, wire basket filled with yarn**—Target Stores; 800/800-8800; target.com. **Rug** Arrowhead Cotton Kilim rug in sun yellow by Steve Alan—West Elm; 866/428-6468; westelm.com. **Flooring** Barrington Laminate in Nutmeg Chestnut CDL25-10—Mohawk Industries; 800/866-4295; mohawkflooring.com.

Page 16

Hangers Natural Hardwood Skirt Hanger—The Container Store; 800/786-7315; containerstore.com.

Plastic storage bags Hefty Jumbo Storage Slider bags—Reynolds Consumer Products, LLC; 800/433-2244; hefty.com. **Clear boxes holding paper** Clear Snap-Top Scrapbook case 763755—Hobby Lobby;

800/323-9204; hobbylobby.com. **Wire paper organizer** Wire Paper rack from the Better Storage Design collection—Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.; walmart.com.

Page 17 (left)

Door-hanging bag Over-Door shoe bag by PEVA—The Container Store; 800/786-7315; containerstore.com. **Towel bar for bottle rack** Designer towel bar by Decko—Menards; menards.com.

Page 17 (right)

Wall pockets Single Wall Pockets in letter size, sold in pack of 3—Office Depot; 800/685-8800;

officedepot.com. **Hanger for fabrics** Metal and Black Rubber arm trouser rack from the Venetian collection—Bed Bath & Beyond; 800/462-3966; *bedbathandbeyond.com*.

Page 18

Bamboo desk tray Stackable Bamboo Drawer Organizer—The Container Store; 800/786-7315; *containerstore.com*. **Small clear storage basket** by Interdesign—Bed Bath & Beyond; 800/462-3966; *bedbathandbeyond.com*.

Page 19

Pink bin X-Small Edison bin in pink—The Container Store; 800/786-7315; *containerstore.com*. **White elephant tape roller** Elephant Multi-Roll tape dispenser—Cute Tape; *cutetape.com*. **Clear-and-white tape dispenser** from the Expressions collection—Scotch by 3M; *scotchbrand.com*. **Real-Life Strategies: Home Work** PAGES 20–23

Interior designer: Andrea Goldman, Andrea Goldman Design, Chicago area; 312/907-2180; *andreagoldmandesign.com*.

Desk custom, **throw on bench** by Johnston's Home, **matching table lamps** Airedelsur-Argentina—Andrea Goldman Design, Chicago area; 312/907-2180; *andreagoldmandesign.com*. **Cabinet hardware**—Rocky Mountain Hardware; 888/788-2013; *rockymountainhardware.com*. **Soapstone countertop**—Chadwick's Surfaces International; 847/680-3222; *chadwicksurfaces.net*. **Chair** Brno

Tubular Chair with ivory leather, **task lighting on desk** Kelvin Desk Lamp, **coatrack** Eames Hang It All in white—Room & Board; *roomandboard.com*.

Upholstered bench and natural hide, bowls holding office supplies—Jayson Home & Garden; 800/472-1885; *jaysonhome.com*. **Sofa**—Lee Industries; 800/892-7150; *leeindustries.com*. **Fabric for sofa** Antique Linen—Pindler & Pindler, Inc.; 805/531-9090; *pindler.com*. **Ottoman** Jonathan bench in slate leather—Oly; *olystudio.com* [T]. **Womb chair** Boucle in neutral—Design Within Reach; 800/944-2233; *dwr.com*. **Sisal carpeting**—Stark Carpet Corp.; 800/752-9000; *starkcarpet.com*. **Floor lamp**—Circa Lighting; 877/762-2323; *circalighting.com*. **Gray files, magazine files**—The Container Store; 800/786-7315; *containerstore.com*. **Moroccan rug**—Matt Camron Rugs & Tapestries; *mattcamron.com*. **Tall basket**—Crate & Barrel; 800/967-6696; *crateandbarrel.com*.

Super Suite

PAGES 24–29

White desk Parsons square dining table in white—West Elm; 866/428-6468; *westelm.com*. **Gold-and-white desk organizer** Gold Desktop Organizer from the Cynthia Rowley collection—Staples; *staples.com*. **Navy-and-pink floral pillows** Navy Fleur Chinois Pillow—Caitlin Wilson Textiles; *caitlinwilsontextiles.com*. **Coral-and-pink pillows** Kai Mulberry D982 Pillow—Lacefield Designs; *lacefelddesigns.com*. **Yellow-and-white storage tote, white hangers, tan rectangle bins** Hogla Bins in natural, **clear shoeboxes** sold as Best Value Case of 20 shoe boxes—The Container Store; *containerstore.com*. **Woven tote bags** Open-Top Boat and Tote Bags—L.L. Bean, Inc.; *llbean.com*.

Storage with Style: Pretty Practical

PAGES 34–37

Architect: Dale Marshal, AIA, Bill Marshall, associate AIA, Architrave, Inc., Charleston, South Carolina; 843/768-2004; *architraveonline.com*.

Interior designer: Elizabeth Barnette, Elizabeth Aiken Barnette Designs, Charleston, South Carolina; *eaiken62@icloud.com*.

Contractor: J. D. Smith Custom Homes, LLC, Mount Pleasant, South Carolina; 843/881-8843; *jdsmithcustomhomesllc.com*.

Rug—Stanton Carpet Corp.; 888/452-4474; *stantoncarpet.com*. **Built-in shoe cabinet** custom design—Elizabeth Aiken Barnette, Daniel Island, South Carolina. **Chandelier**—Rachel Ashwell Shabby Chic; 800/516-4309; *shabbychic.com*. **Shutters**—Budget Blinds; 800/800-9250; *budgetblinds.com*.

Pink baskets with handles Braided Pink Wool baskets in small and large—Restoration Hardware; 800/910-9836; *restorationhardware.com*.

Lamps flanking mirror—GDC Home; 843/571-5142; *gdchome.com*. **Pink jewelry box**—T.J. Maxx; 800/285-6299; *tjmaxx.com*. **Pink-and-white basket** Cynthia Rowley—Marshall's; 800/627-7425; *marshallsonline.com*. **White hatbox on shelf** custom—Devine Imagination; *devineimagination.etsy.com*.

Sanity Savers: Under the Covers

PAGES 38–41

Clear boxes Underbed Storage box with hinged lid, Underbed Buckle-Up box, Underbed Buckle Down Storage box—Iris, Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin; 262/925-6510; *shopirisusa.com*. **Light plaid rug** Pinstripe Plaid Cotton rug—West Elm; 866/428-6468; *westelm.com*. **Gray-and-cream** woven rug Hammond Grey, available online only, **printed rug in all detail photographs** Textured Triangles—from the Better Homes and Gardens collection for Walmart; *walmart.com*. **Flooring** Barrington Laminat in Nutmeg Chestnut CDL25-10—Mohawk Industries; 800/866-4295; *mohawkflooring.com*.

Ultimate Kitchen

PAGES 44–49

Designers: Andrea Dixon, CKD, Allied ASID, and Jen Zierner, Allied ASIA, Fiddlehead Design Group, 275 Market St., Suite 557, Minneapolis, MN 55405; 612/805-0637; *fiddleheaddesigngroup.com*.

Contractor: Craig Fritzjunker, Junker Group LLC, Des Moines; 515/447-0369; *junkergroup.com*.

Refrigerator, washer, dryer, range, hood, dishwasher—Whirlpool; *whirlpool.com*. **Cabinetry** Daladier maple, **china hutch, wall-mount shelves**—Decorà, MasterBrand Cabinets, Inc.; *decoracabinets.com*. **Quartz-surfacing countertops** Torquay—Cambria; *cambriausa.com*. **Backsplash tile** 3×6-inch Rittenhouse Square in Arctic White—Daltile; *daltile.com*. **Cup pulls** M1301, **knobs** M1317—Top Knobs; *topknobs.com*. **Kitchen sink** Cape Dory, **kitchen faucet** Sensate, **pantry sink** Evenweave design on Alcott, **pantry faucet** Parq—Kohler Co.; 800/456-4537; *us.kohler.com*. **Wall paint** Light French Gray SW0055, **trim paint** Pure White SW7005, **gray**

stripe paint Classic French Gray SW0077, **white stripe paint** Pure White SW7005, **green cabinet paint** Garden Spot SW6432, **window mullions paint** Peppercorn SW7674—*sherwin-williams.com*. **Barn door hardware** Classic in Black—NW Artisan Hardware; *nwartisanhardware.com*. **Windows**—Andersen; *andersenwindows.com*. **Roller shades** Alustra Woven Textures, Folio fabric, color Ice RLWT-8922—Hunter Douglas; *hunterdouglas.com*. **Wall lights** Boston Functional Library light in Polished Nickel—Circa Lighting; *circalighting.com*. **Island pendants** Hood A2200 in Polished Nickel with Clear Shade—Rejuvenation; *rejuvenation.com*. **Counter stools** Collins in Orange with Pistel White leather seats, **dining table** Adams Extension in solid maple with Shell stain—Room & Board; *roomandboard.com*. **Rug runner** Diamond in Sprout and White, **rug at living area** Mali in camel—Dash & Albert Rug Co.; *dashandalbert.com*. **Side chairs** Willa Peacock, **green pillows on bench** Lanzo—Crate & Barrel; *crateandbarrel.com*. **Pendant above table** Possini Euro Design White Cloud N1296—LampsPlus; *lampsplus.com*. **Fabric for bench cushion** Glide On in Viridian—Robert Allen; *robertallendesign.com*. **Fabric for window valances** Orsina HLOC120123, **white pillow fabric with blue flowers** Sira 130335, **and blue pillow fabric with leaves** Zosa HLOC120129, all three fabrics from Folia Fabrics collection by Harlequin, **wallpaper at mudroom** Lacarno 110295 from Folia Wallpapers collection by Harlequin, **wallpaper inside china hutch** Lace 110232 from Melinki Wallpapers collection by Scion—available through Fiddlehead Design Group; *fiddleheaddesigngroup.com*. **Tablet** iPad Air—Apple; *apple.com*. **I-Pad stand**—Orange Chef; *theorangechef.com*. **Tray above refrigerator** Party tray in Hailey pattern in Bermuda blue, **orange caddy** Tool Caddy in India pattern in orange color—The MacBeth Collection; *themacbethcollection.com*. **Wire pedestal with oranges, glass jars with glass lids**—World Market; *worldmarket.com*. **Spice jars, Glass jars with wood lids**—The Container Store; *containerstore.com*. **Orange-and-white plates, cups and bowls, blue teapot, creamer and sugar, blue bowls, blue and white baking dishes, glassware on shelves**—Royal Doulton through Waterford Wedgwood; *waterfordwedgwood.com*. **Pitchers on top shelf** Kate Spade, **gray bowls in cabinet, glassware in cabinet**—Lenox; *lenox.com*. **Wood tray, canister, small blue bowl, tan-and-white tray, white bowls, green canister, blue caddy**—Target Stores; 800/800-8800; *target.com*. **Wireless laser printer** Brother HL-2270DW, **rechargeable mobile paper scanner** Dioxide Go—*amazon.com*. **USB charging receptacle** TR7740—Cooper Industries; *cooperindustries.com*. **Baskets on shelf, tote on floor**—LL Bean; *llbean.com*. **Stool** Tabouret Vintage—Overstock.com; 800/843-2446; *overstock.com*. **Charging station** Sanctuary4—Bluelounge; *bluelounge.com*. **Pendant light in mudroom** Project Source HRK0991A, purchased unpainted, **spray paint** Color Radiance in Gloss Orange Maple by Valspar—Lowe's; *lowes.com*.

Ultimate Living Room

PAGES 60–65

Wall paint Jet Stream SW6492, paint in television nook Lakeshore SW6494—The Sherwin-Williams Co.; sherwin-williams.com [P]. **Flooring** Barrington laminate in Nutmeg Chestnut CDL25-10—Mohawk Industries; 800/866-4295; mohawkflooring.com. **Bookcases, cabinet doors** purchased with wood core, removed and replaced with frosted glass after purchase—Whittier Wood Products; whittierwood.com. **Glass for doors**—True Value; truevalue.com. **Frosted film for glass**—Menards; menards.com. **Shelving used to make coffee table** Ekby Alex Shelf in White, **tabletops** Gerton—IKEA; ikea-usa.com. **Caster wheels** Steel Swivel Casters by Everbilt—Home Depot USA, Inc.; homedepot.com. **Wall-mount television** H6400, **speaker at television** Shape—Samsung; samsungusa.com. **Sofa** Jean Luc, **gray chair** Vivianne, **green chair** Draper—Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams; mgandbw.com. **White side table** purchased as a set of three, Sawyer Nesting Tables by Safavieh, painted after purchase—AllModern; allmodern.com. **Area rug** Traverse TV51—Jaipur; jaipurrugs.com. **Sconces** Soho—Shades of Light; shadesoflight.com. **Green library boxes in shelving** Bigso Magazine Files, **drawer organizers in coffee table** Linus Shallow Drawer Organizers, **cord-length control bands, electric cord-containing boxes in base cabinet**—The Container Store; containerstore.com. **Baskets**—Marshall's; marshallsonline.com. **White sticker tags** made from product similar to Post-It Dry Erase Surface—3M Co.; post-it.com. **Wood tags on baskets** holes drilled for attachment after purchase—Michaels Stores, Inc.; michaels.com. **Trays inside coffee table** Accessory Tray, Bits and Bobs Tray—Poppin; poppin.com. **Game box** Wii U—Nintendo; nintendo.com/wiiu. **Computer in over-the-arm caddy**—Apple, Inc.; apple.com. **Printer**—Canon; canon.com.

Ultimate Master Suite

PAGES 76–81

Building designer: Ted Barnhill, Design Forty Five, Minneapolis; 612/377-4322; designfortyfive.com. **Interior designer:** Lisa Albers, Albers Design, LLC, Minnetonka, Minnesota; 952/937-0905; albersdesign.com. **Bedroom wall paint** Wolf Gray, **ceiling paint** Feather Gray—Benjamin Moore; 888/236-6667; benjaminmoore.com [P]. **Chandelier** Oxana Eglo in chrome, **sconces at bath vanity** Saber Wall Sconce by George Kovacs in etched Opal and brushed nickel—Lumens; 877/445-4486; lumens.com. **Bed** Tate in white—Crate & Barrel; 800/967-6696; crateandbarrel.com. **Barn door hardware** Classic Barn door in black—Real Sliding Hardware; realslidinghardware.com. **White hanging lights in corridor**—Infinity Lights; infinitylights.com. **Sink** Ladena in white, **tub** Mariposa Whirlpool in white—Kohler Co.; 800/456-4537; us.kohler.com. **Faucets for sinks, tub, and shower** Parma in brushed nickel—Danze; 877/530-3344; danze.com. **Vanity mirrors**

Sprintz—Restoration Hardware; 800/910-9836; restorationhardware.com. **Paint for cabinetry and wainscot** Duxbury Gray—Benjamin Moore; 888/236-6667; benjaminmoore.com [P]. **Flooring at bath** Blanco Calcutta from the Veins series—Olympia Tile; olympiatile.com. **Bath ceiling lights** Copa in Carrera and satin nickel—Besa Lighting; 800/446-2372; besalighting.com. **Shower flooring** porcelain mosaic tile in snow and ice, **shower walls and ceiling** polished Devonshire Carrara—Crossville, Inc.; crossvilleinc.com. **Vanity backsplash** Vardo from the Glassix series—Amsum & Ash; amsumash.com. **Tub surround, vanity countertop, storage cabinet top** Eco in Polar Cap—Cosentino USA; ecobycosentino.com.

Ultimate Girls Room

PAGES 82–87

White cubby at bedside Cubeicals, **canvas bins in cubby**—ClosetMaid; 800/874-0008; closetmaid.com. **Blue bin with white polka dots, green metal bin, green woven caddy at desk, pink-framed table mirror on bureau, foam core for pants cubby divider**—Hobby Lobby; 800/323-9204; hobbylobby.com. **Green monkey, pink owl, desk chair** Papasan ottoman purchased unpainted—Pier 1 Imports; 800/245-4595; pier1.com. **Square white pillow, rug at bed**—Urban Outfitters; 800/282-2200; urbanoutfitters.com. **Rectangular white pillow**—Bed Bath & Beyond; 800/462-3966; bedbathandbeyond.com. **White scroll frame, white frames at desk, hang tags dividing hangers, butterfly cutouts on boot tray**—Michaels Stores, Inc.; michaels.com. **White-lidded containers inside canvas bins, drawer divider in under-bed drawer**—OXO International; 800/545-4411; oxo.com. **Dry-erase and chalkboard paper**—Blik; 866/262-2545; whatisblik.com. **White lamps on bureau**—Shades of Light; 800/262-6612; shadesoflight.com. **White bins in bureau**—IKEA; ikea-usa.com. **Pink and blue half bins with trays in bureau** Circo, **canvas-lined wire clothes hamper discontinued, painted after purchase, pink boots**—Target Stores; 800/800-8800; target.com. **Pink luggage**—Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.; walmart.com. **Gray box on top shelf**—FamilyArchives.Com; 888/703-4073; familyarchives.com. **Hangers** Real Simple—Bed Bath & Beyond; 800/462-3966; bedbathandbeyond.com.

Ultimate Laundry

PAGES 98–105

Cabinetry, cubbies, bath linen closet, vanity—Decor4u, MasterBrand Cabinets, Inc.; decoracabinets.com. **Beaded board paint** Aloe SW6464, **trim and stair stripe paint** Pure White SW7005, **blue paint for stairs** Cloudburst SW6487—The Sherwin-Williams Co.; 800/474-3794; sherwin-williams.com [P]. **Countertop in laundry area and at sink** Mosaic Dalmation, **sink** A3181—Staron Solid Surfaces by Samsung; 800/795-7177; staron.com. **Flooring** Noir honed travertine—Tile Shop; 888/398-6595; tileshop.com. **Radiant floor heating**—Sun Touch; sun-touch.com. **Faucet** Nyla brushed nickel lavatory

faucet by Delta 15708LF-SS, **track lighting at laundry area** Allen and Roth brushed steel, **lighting at sink vanity** Portfolio 3 light with outlet FV12-096-1, **white swirl art glass covers for lights** FL09-056, **black clothes hangers** C68951-FHLD, **woven rectangular baskets** A&R water hyacinth basket in medium WH120350 and large 1292, painted white after purchase—Lowe's; lowes.com. **Hanging sweater dryer, shower basket** 22645020.06, **retractable clothesline, delicates bag, mesh sweater bag, medium chalkboard box** 36206010.06—Homz Products; 800/457-9881; homzproducts.com. **Washer, dryer**—Maytag; maytag.com. **Rug runner at green cleaning caddy** Aquinnah Woven Cotton—Dash & Albert Rug Co.; dashandalbert.com. **Shelf paper at shoe storage** Distressed Damask shelf paper and drawer liner 8402—Chic Shelf Paper; chicshelfpaper.com. **Stackable green cleaning caddy and white bucket**—Joseph Joseph; josephjoseph.com. **Square magnets with hooks** Spot On in white 24340, spring green 24342 and stainless 24349, **magazine pocket with magnet board by door** in white 35320, and in kids cubbies in stainless 35340, **magnetic glass dry-erase monthly planner and memo boards at wall area** in white 34513, **mini magnetic strip bulletin boards holding keys on magnetic hooks by door** 31205 stainless—Three by Three Seattle; 877/329-3462; threebythree.com. **Retractable clothesline for shower** 568050, **first aid case** 10013626, **nail polish container without lid** 12-Section Acrylic Nail Polish Riser Clear 10059731, **clear lidded jars** Bliss Acrylic Canister Clear 10052128, **clear scoop in jar** 428901—The Container Store; 800/786-7315; containerstore.com.

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just in case

Standard meets stylish when this basic organizer turns into a multipurpose serving station.

Writer **Emily Elveru** Photographer **Marty Baldwin** Producer **Katie Leporte**



1. Flip an eight-cube organizer horizontally. **2.** Fit stylish baskets inside the cubbies. Balance is key, so don't overwhelm the space with too many organizers. Choose bins with handles, so you can effortlessly transport items from shelf to table. **3.** Stack large, matching items, like plates and bowls, in open shelves. Decor, linens, and tippy pieces store best inside baskets. **4.** Skirt your serving station by attaching a strip of hook-and-loop tape to the top rim of the organizer and back of a piece of fabric measured to fit your unit. Embellish with nailhead trim if desired. Complete the look with elegant wall art, a beautiful bouquet, and treat trays.

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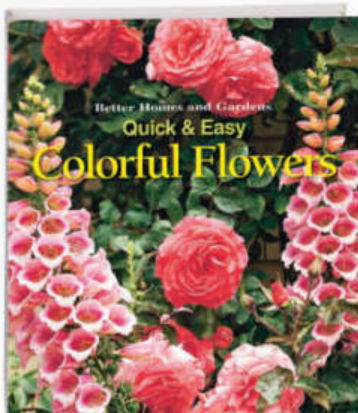
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